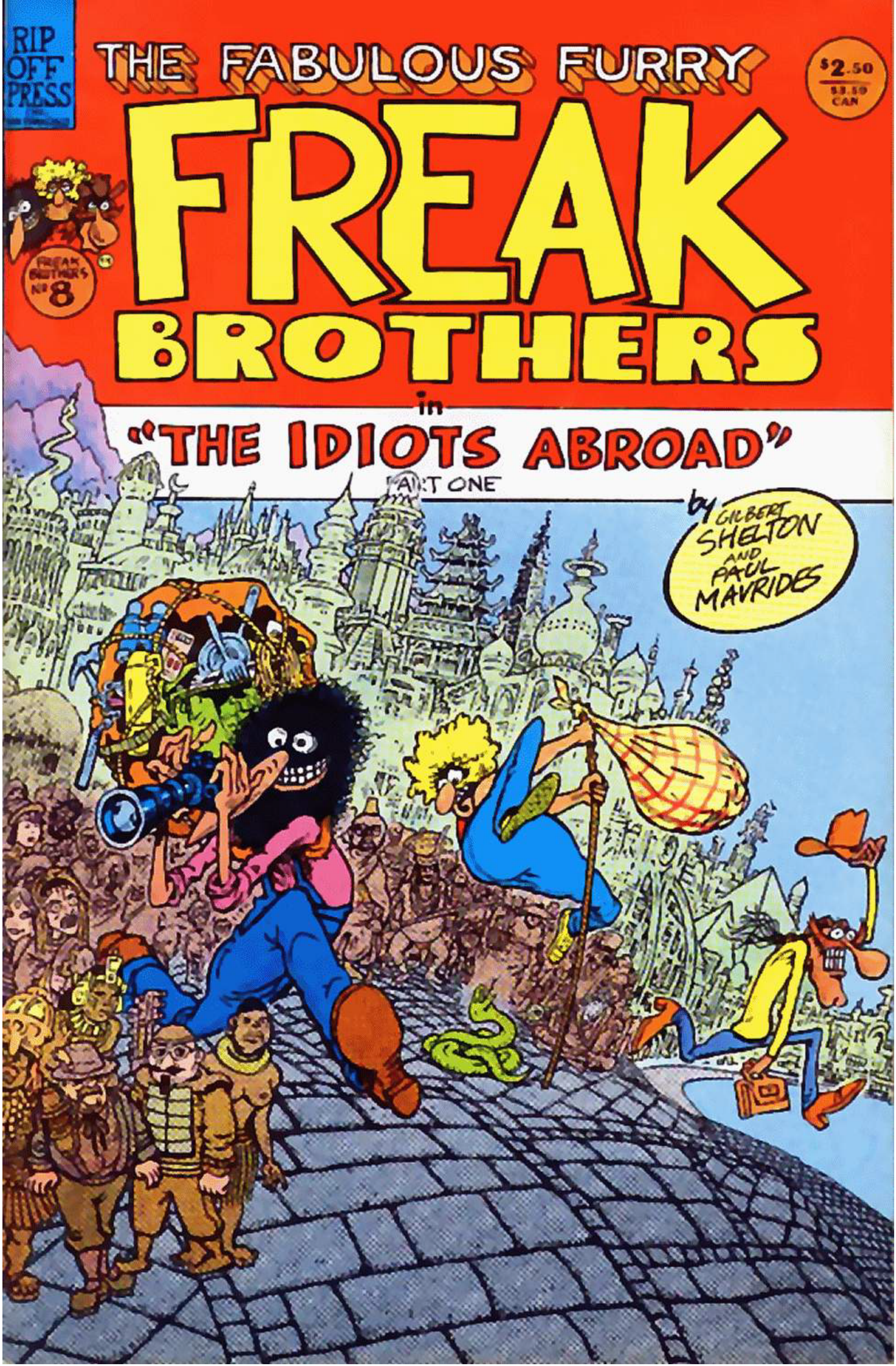
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PART ONE
by GILBERT SHELTON AND PAUL MAVRIDES

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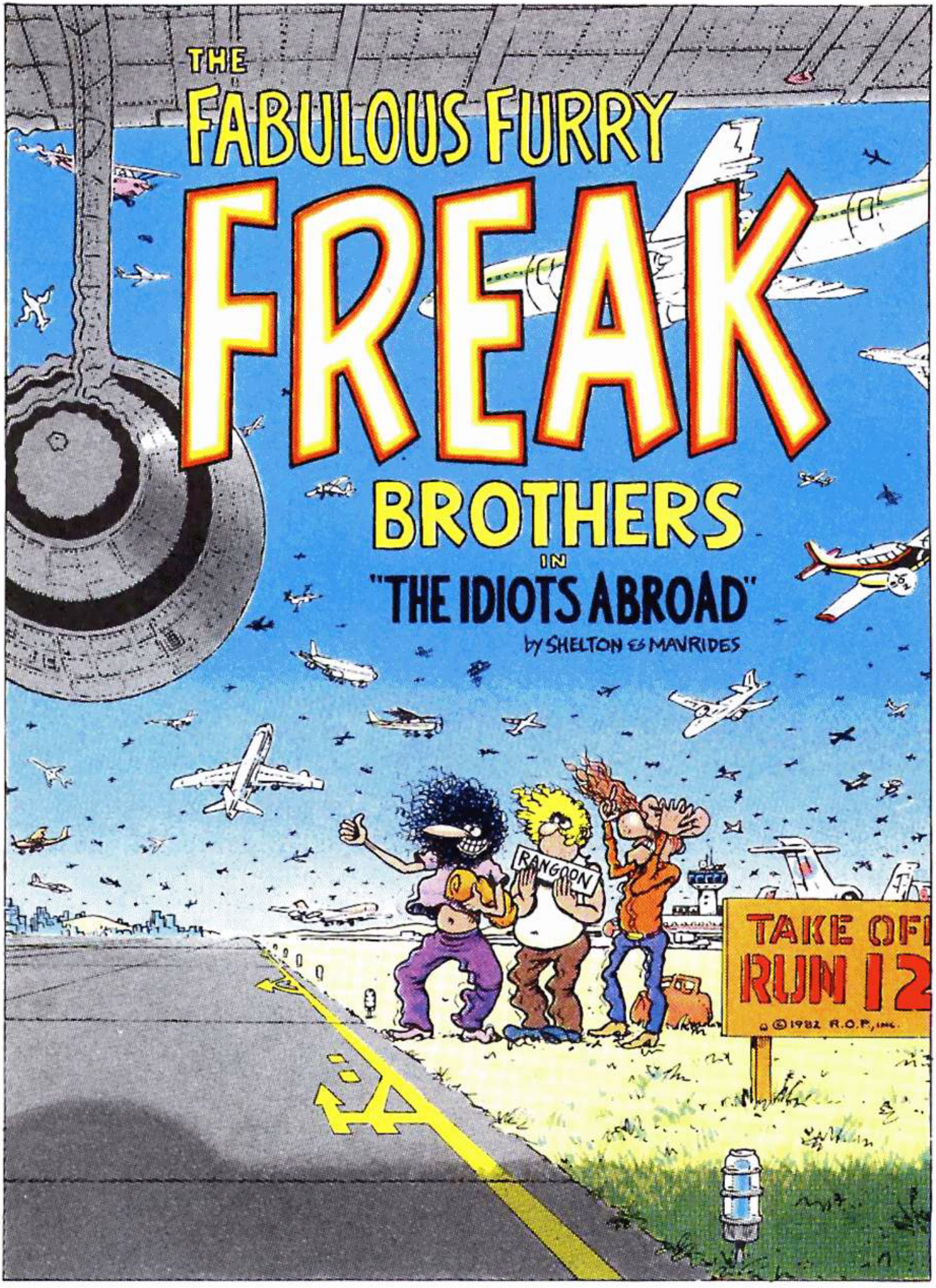
THE
FABULOUS FURRY
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IN
"THE IDIOTS ABROAD"
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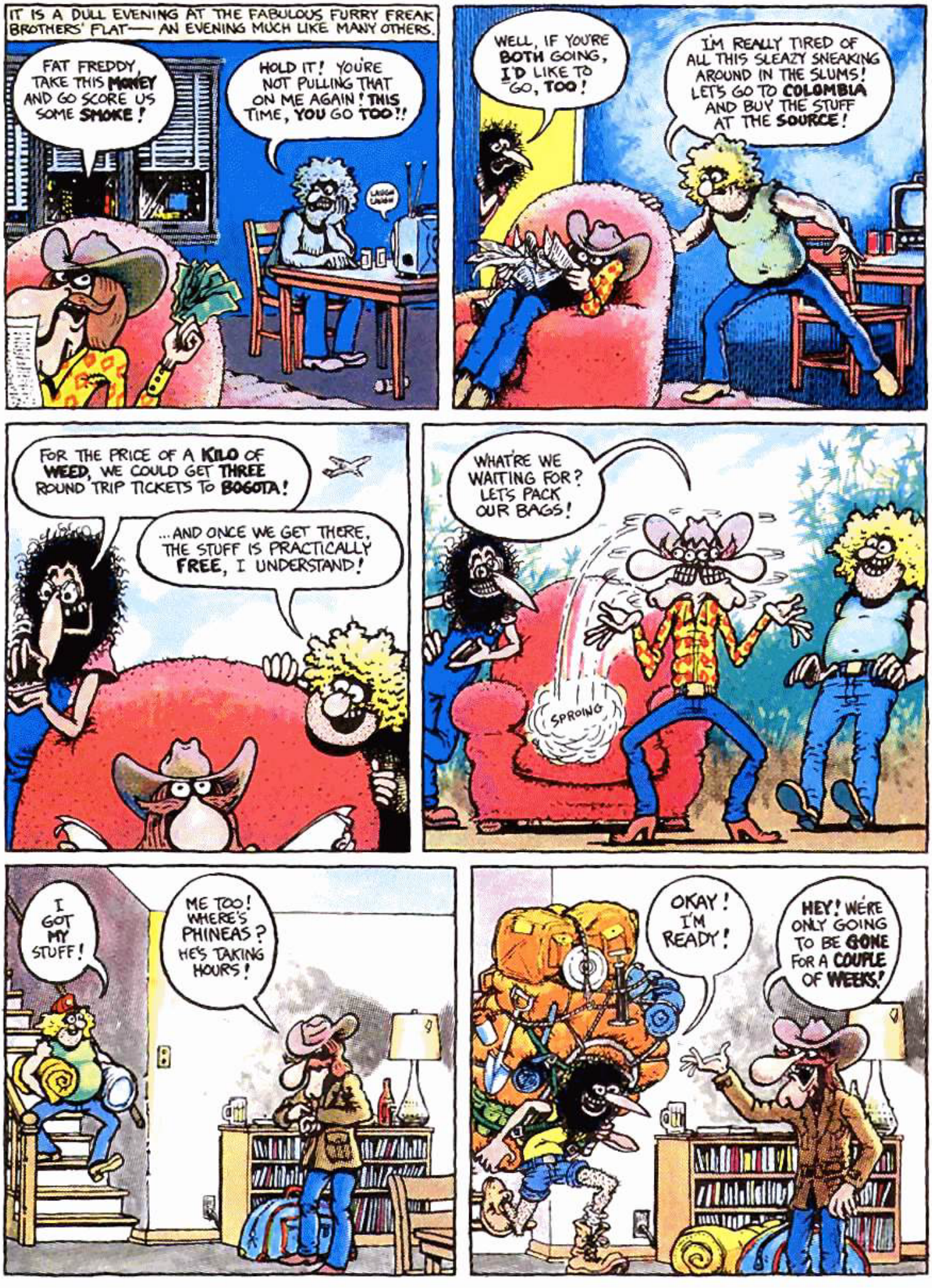
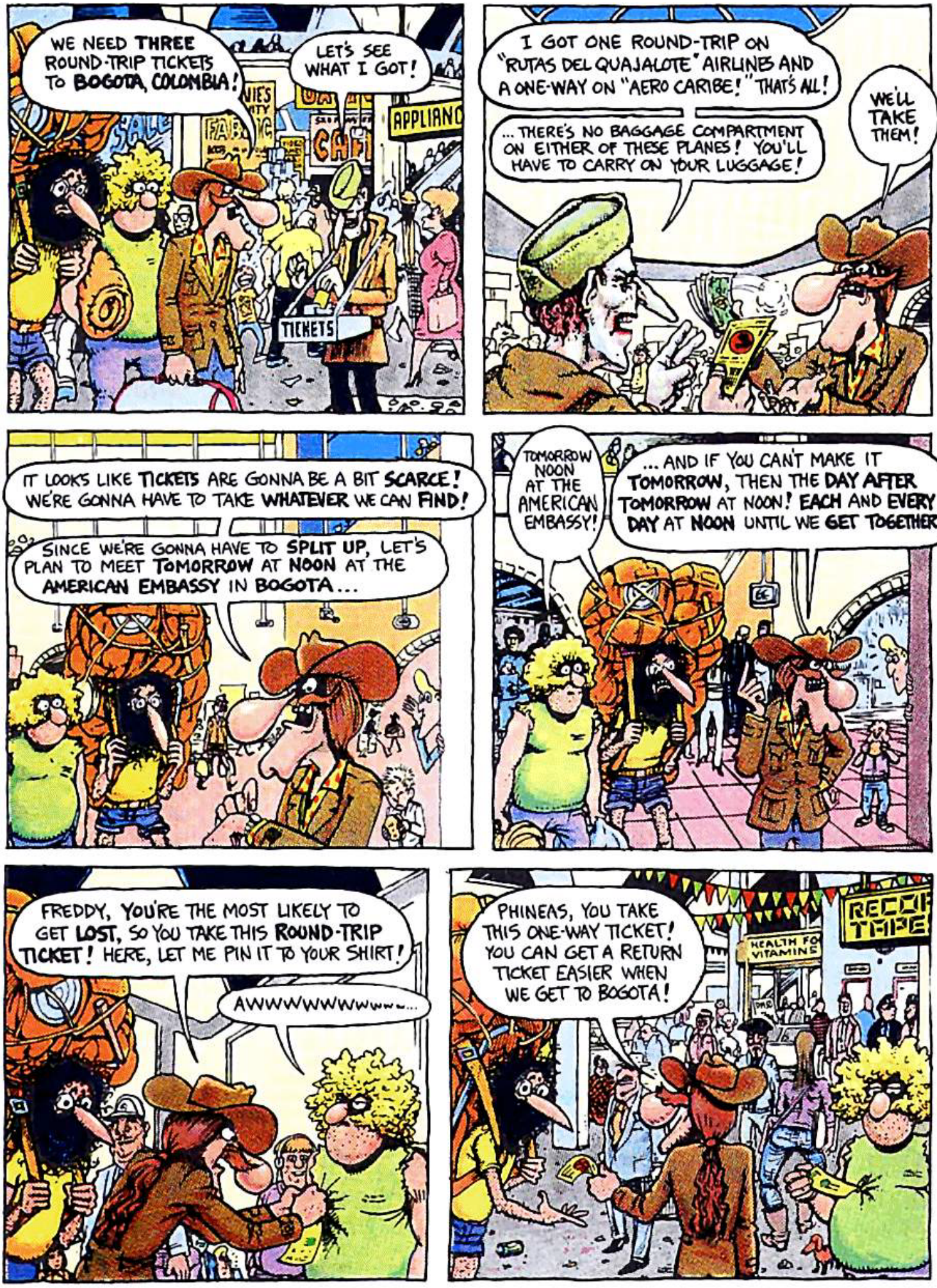
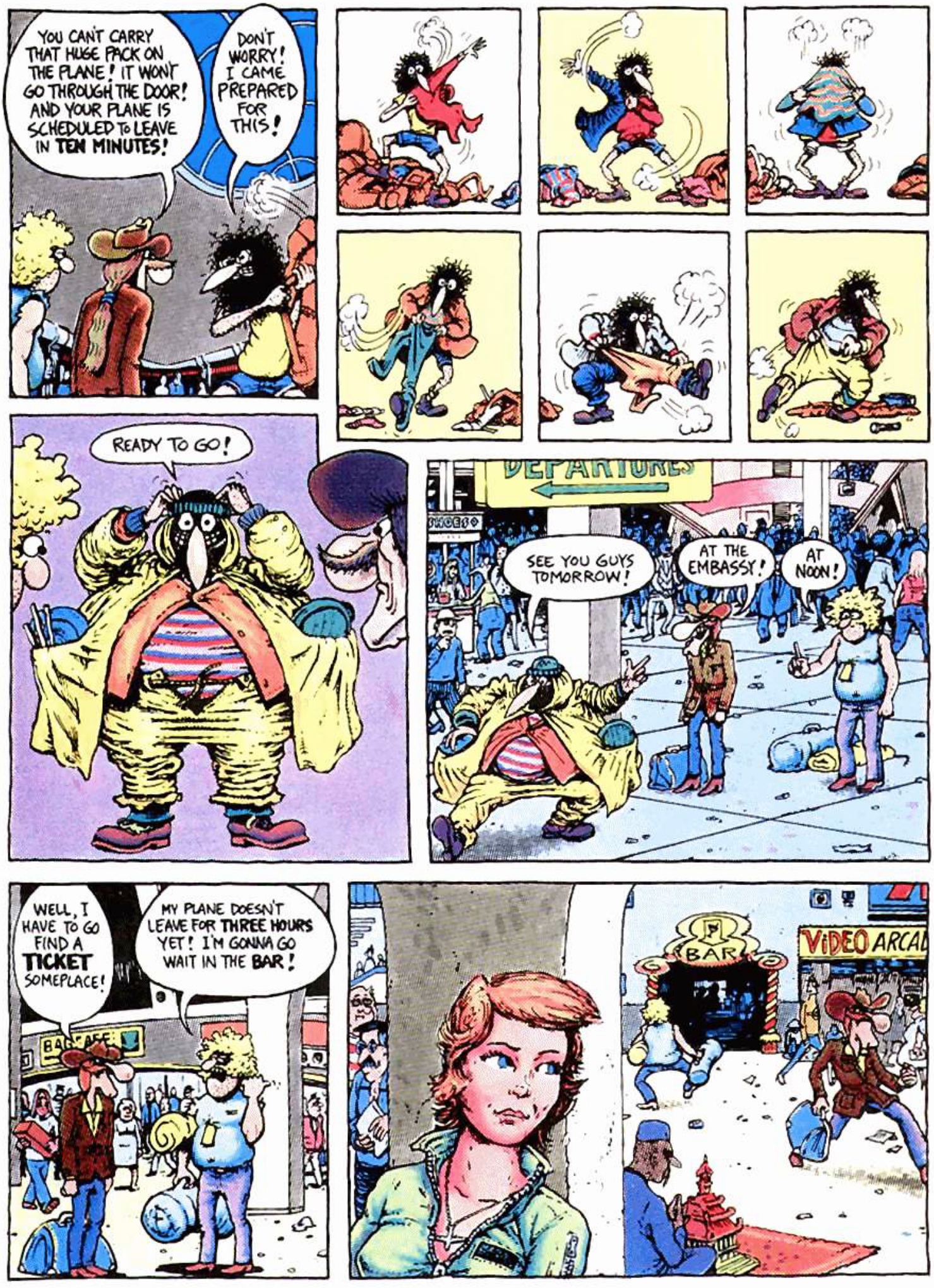

IT IS A DULL EVENING AT THE FABULOUS FURRY FREAK BROTHERS' FLAT— AN EVENING MUCH LIKE MANY OTHERS.
FAT FREDDY, TAKE THIS MONEY AND GO SCORE US SOME SMOKE!
HOLD IT! YOU'RE NOT PULLING THAT ON ME AGAIN! THIS TIME, YOU GO TOO!!
LAUGH LAUGH
WELL, IF YOU'RE BOTH GOING, I'D LIKE TO GO, TOO!
I'M REALLY TIRED OF ALL THIS SLEAZY SNEAKING AROUND IN THE SLUMS! LET'S GO TO COLOMBIA AND BUY THE STUFF AT THE SOURCE!
FOR THE PRICE OF A KILO OF WEED, WE COULD GET THREE ROUND TRIP TICKETS TO BOGOTA!
...AND ONCE WE GET THERE, THE STUFF IS PRACTICALLY FREE, I UNDERSTAND!
WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S PACK OUR BAGS!
SPROING
I GOT MY STUFF!
ME TOO! WHERE'S PHINEAS? HE'S TAKING HOURS!
OKAY! I'M READY!
HEY! WE'RE ONLY GOING TO BE GONE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS!

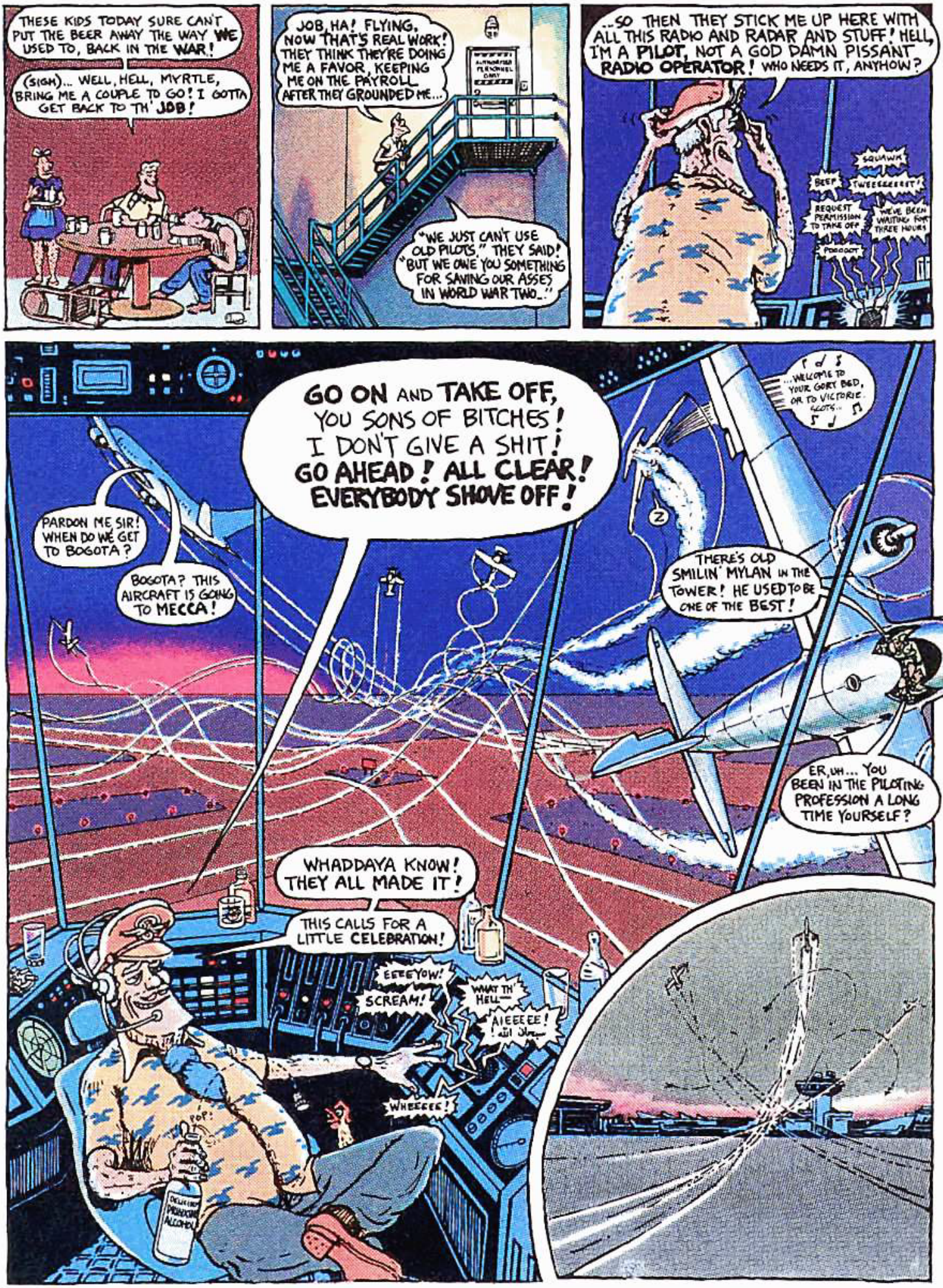
HOW'RE YOU GONNA GET THAT ON THE BUS?
BUS? I THOUGHT WE WERE TAKING THE PLANE!
SURE, WE'RE TAKING THE PLANE, BUT WE HAVE TO GET TO THE AIRPORT FIRST!
NO
...THEN WE TRANSFER AGAIN, TO THE TWENTY-TWO TRASHVIEW, WHICH CARRIES US TO THE DOWNTOWN AIRLINE TERMINAL, WHERE WE CATCH ANOTHER BUS TO THE AIRPORT!
WE CAN'T AFFORD A TAXI, HUH?
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT'S FIFTY MILES FROM HERE TO THE AIRPORT!
DRUGS
TAXI
C'MON, FELLAS! HURRY UP! I DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT!
PUSH HARDER, GUYS! I KNOW IT'LL FIT THROUGH THE DOOR!
I WONDER WHO BUILT THAT FUNNY-LOOKING BUILDING HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY!
THAT WAS A HANGAR! THE AIRPORT USED TO BE RIGHT HERE!
DISCOUNT FLOOD-DAMAGED FURNITURE
LOST
(UMM! A STREET GANG!)
(UH-OH! DOES THIS MEAN TROUBLE?)
(JUST A SECOND! I'LL FIND OUT!)
(WHAT'S THAT BOOK?)
("FIELD GUIDE TO STREET GANGS OF THE AMERICAS!")
(CROSS-INDEXED BY NAME, GARB, AND TERRITORY, FORTUNATELY! QUICK, EXACTLY WHERE ARE WE?)
(TRASHVIEW AND NADA VISTA!)
SHUT UP AND GIVE US YOUR MONEY!
(UM, UM... DRAGONS? NO, THEY WEAR ORANGE SOCKS!)
HERE! WOMBATS!
WOMBATS!
HEY! WOMBATS! DIG! WE'RE THE MAD DOGS OF SOUTH SUCCOTASH! WE SIGNED A TREATY WITH YOU GUYS BACK IN EIGHTY-ONE!
REMEMBER THE SPECIAL HANDSHAKE?
YEAH! THE HANDSHAKE!
UMM... SURE, MAN, I REMEMBER! HEY! WE WAS JUST KIDDING!
SHEEIT! WE YOU FRENS, MON!
WE THOUGHT YOU WAS ARTISTAS!
AN HOUR LATER:
YOU FELLAS HAVE A NICE TRIP TO BOGOTA, NOW!
SHEEIT! SEE Y'ALL GUYS LATER!
AIRBU
WHITE OF THE EARTH
WOMBATS

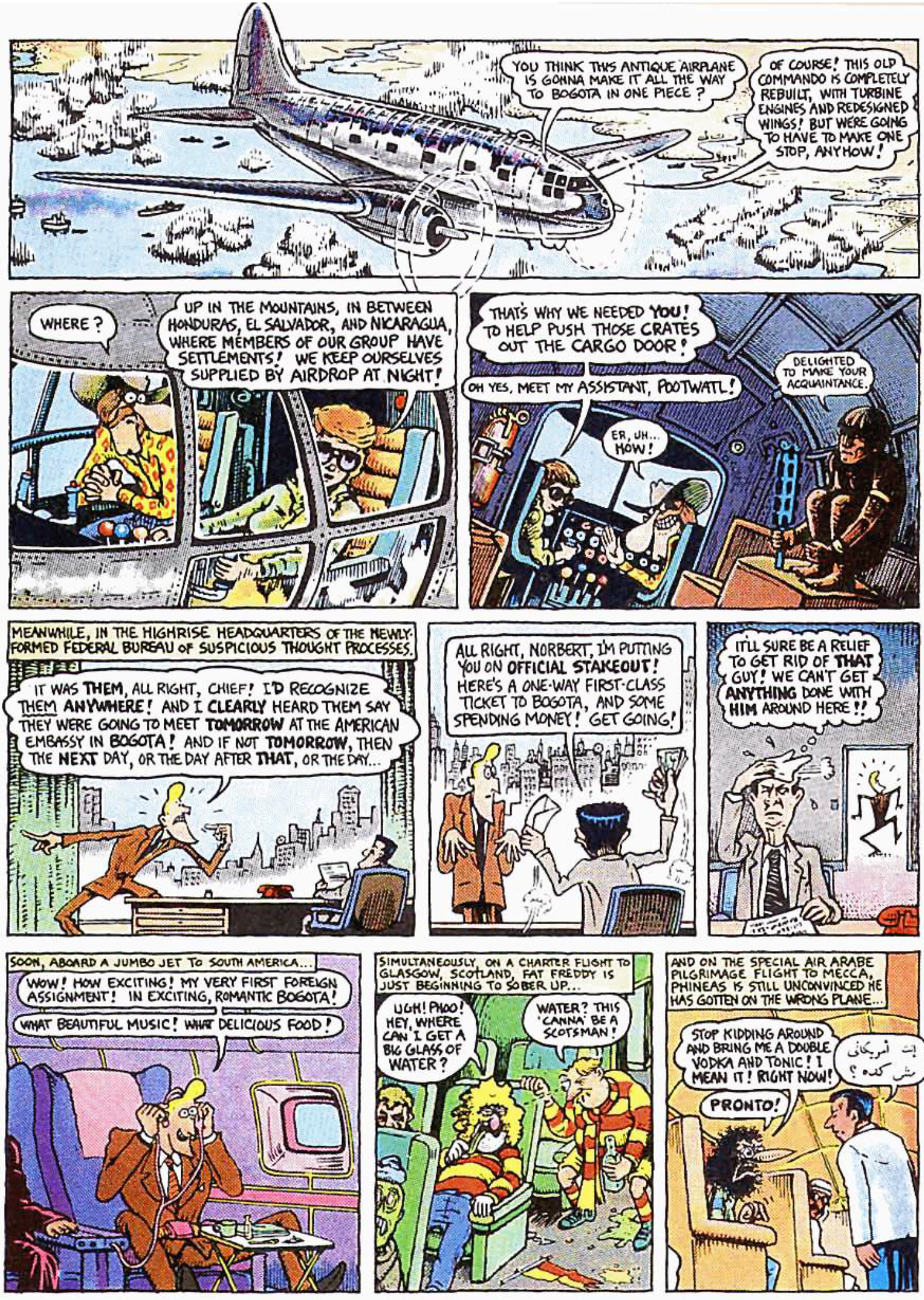
HERE'S THE BUS TO THE AIRPORT OVER HERE!
HOTEL ARTAUD
AIRPOR TRAN
HEY, I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO GET TO RIDE ON A BIG SCENICRUISER OR SOMETHING! WE RIDE IN A VOLKSWAGEN BUS ALL THE TIME!
YEP! NOT SO MANY TRAVELERS GOING TO THE AIRPORT NOW, SINCE ALL THE MAJOR AIRLINES WENT BANKRUPT!
YEAH, I THINK THERE'S STILL A FEW FOREIGN AND CHARTER FLIGHTS OUT OF HERE, BUT MOSTLY PEOPLE JUST GO OUT TO THE AIRPORT TO EAT AND DRINK AND GO SHOPPING!
AIRPORT BAR
M-M-M MEAT
GAS 'N' GREASE
PARKING
ARRIVALS
DEPARTURES
THE BUS DRIVER WAS RIGHT! THE AIRLINES HAVE ALL CLOSED DOWN!
YOU BOYS LOOKING FOR TICKETS? WHERE TO?
100 Auto Parts
DISCOUNT TV JEANS
SALE
PRODUCE
GATES 10-29
POPCORN

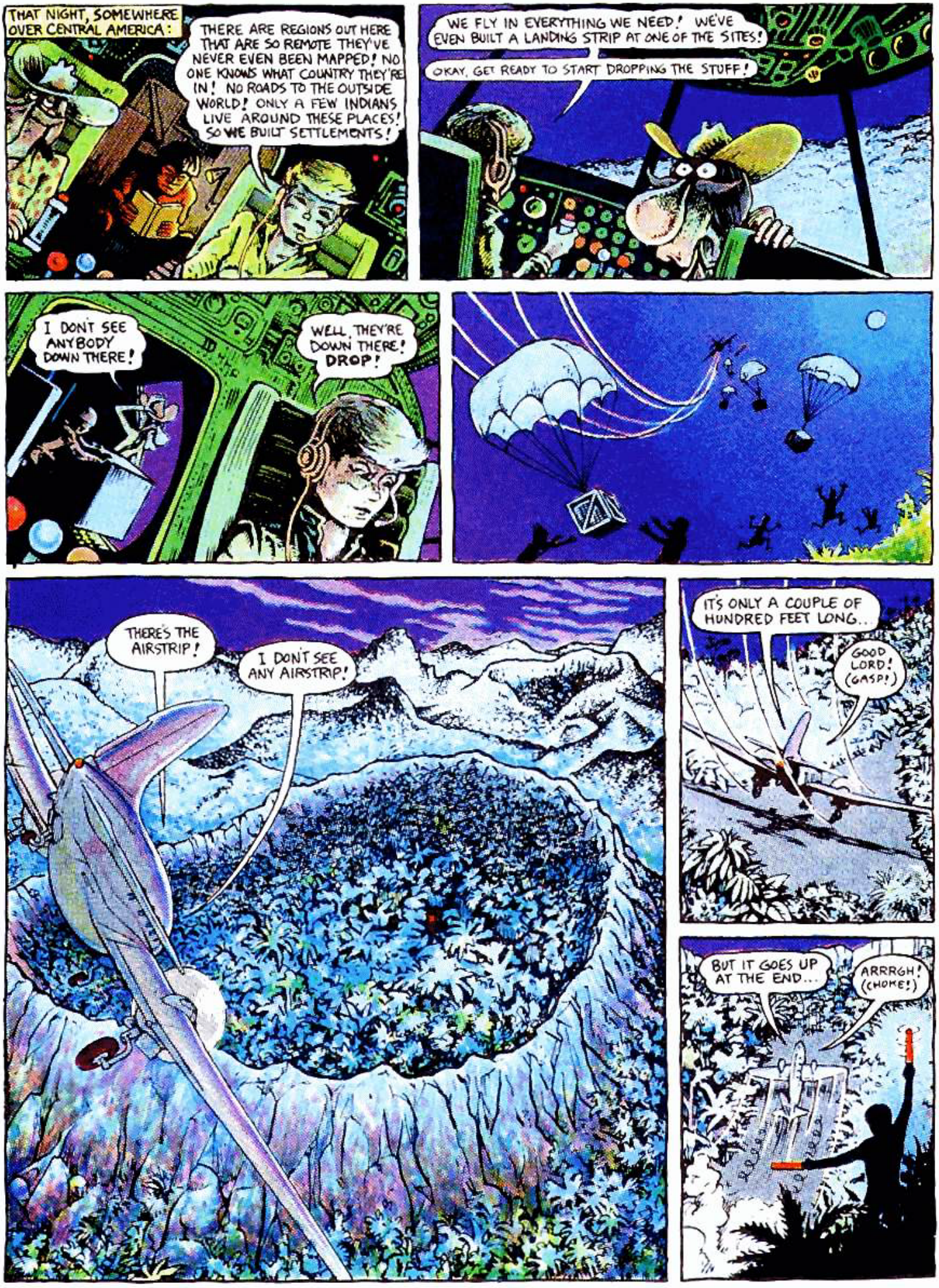

WE NEED THREE ROUND-TRIP TICKETS TO BOGOTA, COLOMBIA!
LET'S SEE WHAT I GOT!
SALE
FAB
CAFE
APPLIANC
TICKETS
I GOT ONE ROUND-TRIP ON "RUTAS DEL QUAJALOTE" AIRLINES AND A ONE-WAY ON "AERO CARIBE!" THAT'S ALL!
... THERE'S NO BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT ON EITHER OF THESE PLANES! YOU'LL HAVE TO CARRY ON YOUR LUGGAGE!
WE'LL TAKE THEM!
IT LOOKS LIKE TICKETS ARE GONNA BE A BIT SCARCE! WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE WHATEVER WE CAN FIND!
SINCE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SPLIT UP, LET'S PLAN TO MEET TOMORROW AT NOON AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BOGOTA...
TOMORROW NOON AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY!
... AND IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TOMORROW, THEN THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW AT NOON! EACH AND EVERY DAY AT NOON UNTIL WE GET TOGETHER!
FREDDY, YOU'RE THE MOST LIKELY TO GET LOST, SO YOU TAKE THIS ROUND-TRIP TICKET! HERE, LET ME PIN IT TO YOUR SHIRT!
AWWWWWWWWWW...
PHINEAS, YOU TAKE THIS ONE-WAY TICKET! YOU CAN GET A RETURN TICKET EASIER WHEN WE GET TO BOGOTA!
RECOR TAPE
HEALTH FO VITAMINS

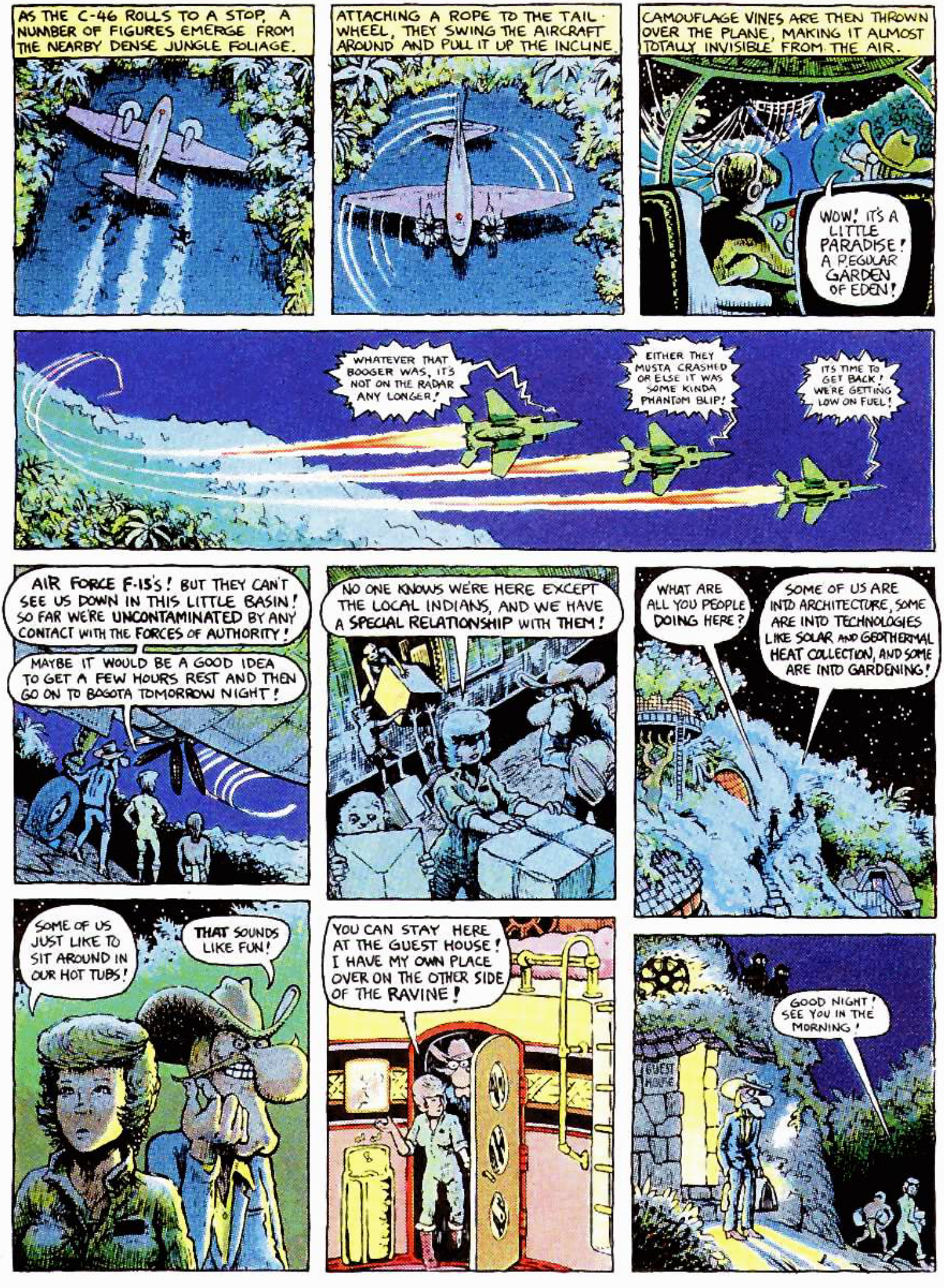

YOU CAN'T CARRY THAT HUGE PACK ON THE PLANE! IT WON'T GO THROUGH THE DOOR! AND YOUR PLANE IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE IN TEN MINUTES!
DON'T WORRY! I CAME PREPARED FOR THIS!
READY TO GO!
DEPARTURES
SHOES
SEE YOU GUYS TOMORROW!
AT THE EMBASSY!
AT NOON!
WELL, I HAVE TO GO FIND A TICKET SOMEPLACE!
MY PLANE DOESN'T LEAVE FOR THREE HOURS YET! I'M GONNA GO WAIT IN THE BAR!
BAR
VIDEO ARCAD

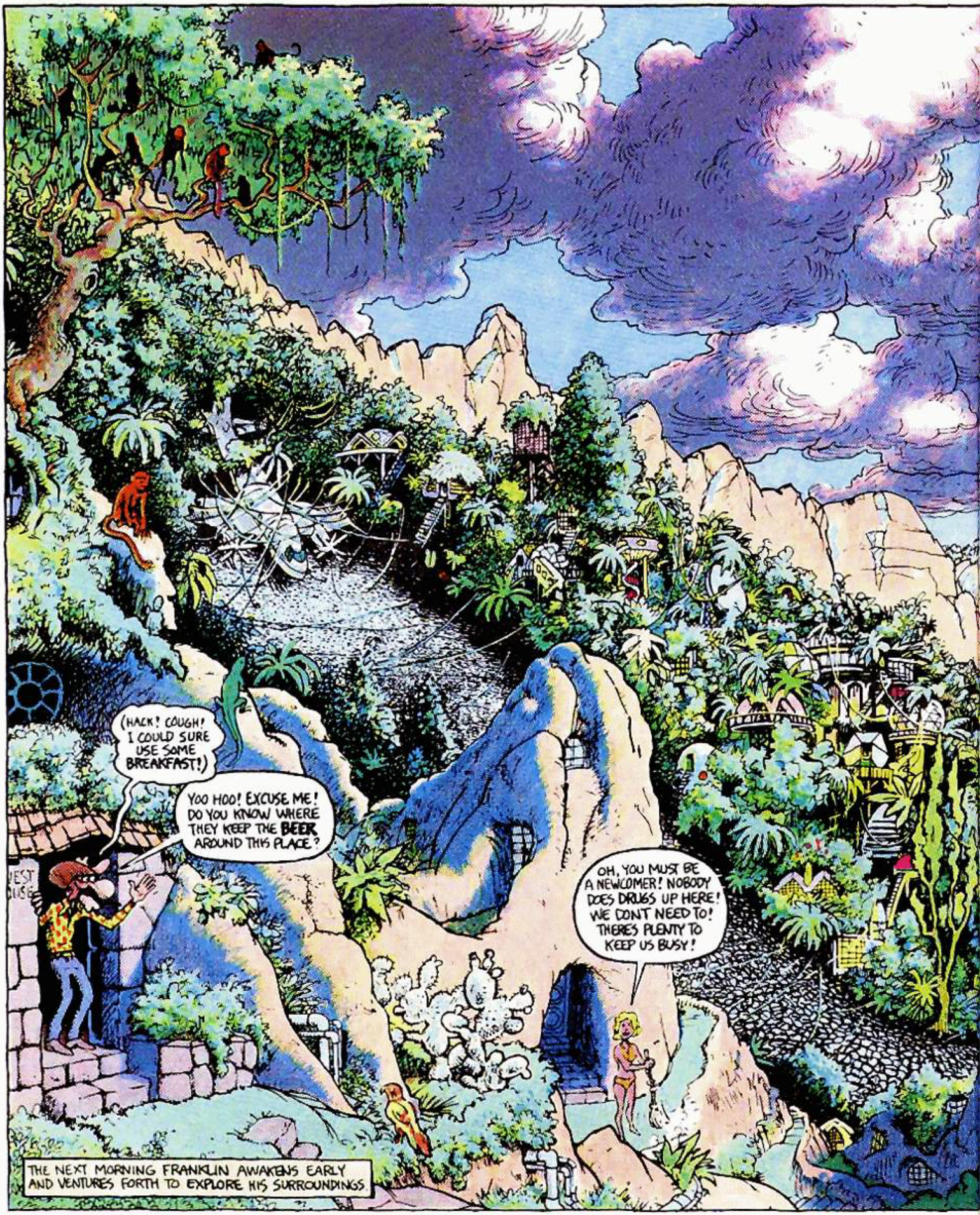
IN THE BAR, FAT FREDDY SOON FINDS A CONGENIAL TABLE...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS? SOME KINDA TEAM?
WE'RE THE FAN CLOOB OF TH' GLASGOW RANGERS, LADDIE! SIT DOON!
WE'RE HAVIN' A WEE STOPOVER ON OUR WAY HOME FROM MELBOURNE!
FOOK AUSTRALIA!
AYE, THEY HAD TO WORK ON OUR SHIP! SOMEONE BROKE A WINDOW!
PHYLLIS, HOW ABOUT A ROUND OF GOOD OLD AMERICAN BEER FOR OUR SCOTCH FRIENDS HERE!
MEANWHILE, AFTER UNDERGOING A VERY THOROUGH SEARCH BY MAGNETOMETER, X-RAY, AND DRUG-DETECTING GERBIL, PHINEAS IS SUDDENLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY APPROACHED BY A FRIENDLY AIRPORT COP.
YOUR FLIGHT IS THIS WAY, SIR!
IN THE INTERVAL, FRANKLIN HAS HAD NO LUCK IN HIS SEARCH FOR A TICKET...
HI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT OUR GROUP!
I'VE GOTTA FIND A TICKET TO COLOMBIA! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TALK TO SOME DAMN MOONIE!
THIS BEER TASTES LIKE HORSE PISS!
SEE? I KNEW YOU'D LIKE IT! SIX MORE BEERS PLEASE, CINDY!
SIX MORE FOR ME TOO, LADY!
WHAT TH' HECK! SIX MORE FOR ME, TOO!
OH, THAT'S A BONNY SHIRT YE'VE GOT THERE, LAD!
FOOK ENGLAND TOO!
YEAH, THAT'S TH' MOTTO OF MY CHURCH!
WANNA TRADE?
FUCK 'EM IF THEY CAN'T TAKE A JOKE!
THAT'S ODD! I THOUGHT IT WAS THE OTHER DIRECTION! THIS GUY MUST KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T!
SURE ENOUGH, THERE IT IS — "AERO CARIBE!"
AIRC ARABE
OUR GROUP RUNS SIX AIRCRAFT BETWEEN HERE AND SOUTH AMERICA! WE NEED ONE MORE PERSON, RIGHT NOW, TO FILL OUT A FLIGHT CREW! INTERESTED?
TWO AND A HALF HOURS LATER...
HOW ABOUT IT, GUYS? READY FOR ANOTHER ONE? SALLY, HOW ABOUT BRINGING SOME MORE BEER?
THERE'S TH' LAST FOUR OF 'EM IN THERE, SIR!
I'LL PRACTICE MY SPANISH ON THIS GUY!
BUENAS DIAS, SEÑOR!
السلام عليكم
WOW, I GUESS I DON'T UNDERSTAND SPANISH AS WELL AS I THOUGHT!
THOSE ARE OUR AIRPLANES THERE AT THE END OF THE RUNWAY!
C'MON, LADS! BEER BREAK'S OVER! TIME T'GAE BACK T'TH' PLANE!
DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANOTHER ONE, MUH FELLAS?
OCH AYE! THIS ONE'S SO DROONK I DIDN'A EVEN RECOGNIZE HIM!
THESE COLOMBIANS CERTAINLY DO DRESS FUNNY! THEY DON'T LOOK A BIT LIKE I THOUGHT THEY WOULD!
THIS ONE'S LEAVING FOR COLOMBIA AS SOON AS WE GET CLEARANCE FOR TAKEOFF! GO ON! HOP ABOARD!!

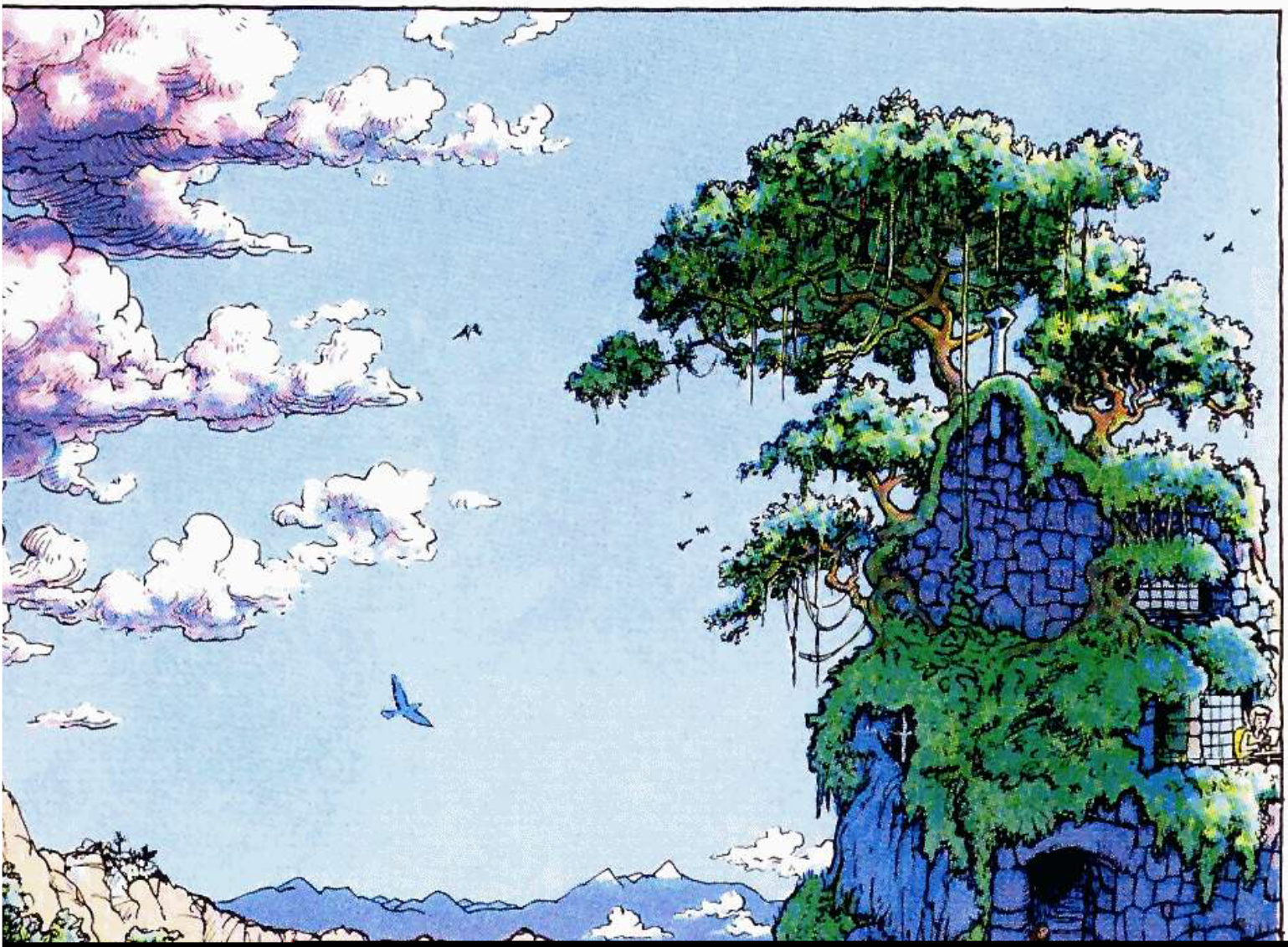

THESE KIDS TODAY SURE CAN'T PUT THE BEER AWAY THE WAY WE USED TO, BACK IN THE WAR!
(SIGH)... WELL, HELL, MYRTLE, BRING ME A COUPLE TO GO! I GOTTA GET BACK TO TH' JOB!
JOB, HA! FLYING, NOW THAT'S REAL WORK! THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING ME A FAVOR, KEEPING ME ON THE PAYROLL AFTER THEY GROUNDED ME...
"WE JUST CAN'T USE OLD PILOTS," THEY SAID! "BUT WE OWE YOU SOMETHING FOR SAVING OUR ASSES IN WORLD WAR TWO..."
...SO THEN THEY STICK ME UP HERE WITH ALL THIS RADIO AND RADAR AND STUFF! HELL, I'M A PILOT, NOT A GOD DAMN PISSANT RADIO OPERATOR! WHO NEEDS IT, ANYHOW?
SQUAWK
BEEP
TWEEEEEEEET!
REQUEST PERMISSION TO TAKE OFF
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THREE HOURS
PODOOCT
GO ON AND TAKE OFF, YOU SONS OF BITCHES! I DON'T GIVE A SHIT! GO AHEAD! ALL CLEAR! EVERYBODY SHOVE OFF!
...WELCOME TO YOUR GORY BED, OR TO VICTORIE. SLOTS...
PARDON ME SIR! WHEN DO WE GET TO BOGOTA?
BOGOTA? THIS AIRCRAFT IS GOING TO MECCA!
THERE'S OLD SMILIN' MYLAN IN THE TOWER! HE USED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST!
ER, UH... YOU BEEN IN THE PILOTING PROFESSION A LONG TIME YOURSELF?
WHADDAYA KNOW! THEY ALL MADE IT!
THIS CALLS FOR A LITTLE CELEBRATION!
EEEEYOW! SCREAM!
WHAT TH' HELL—
AIEEEEE!
WHEEEEE!
POP!
DELUXE PREMIUM ALCOHOL

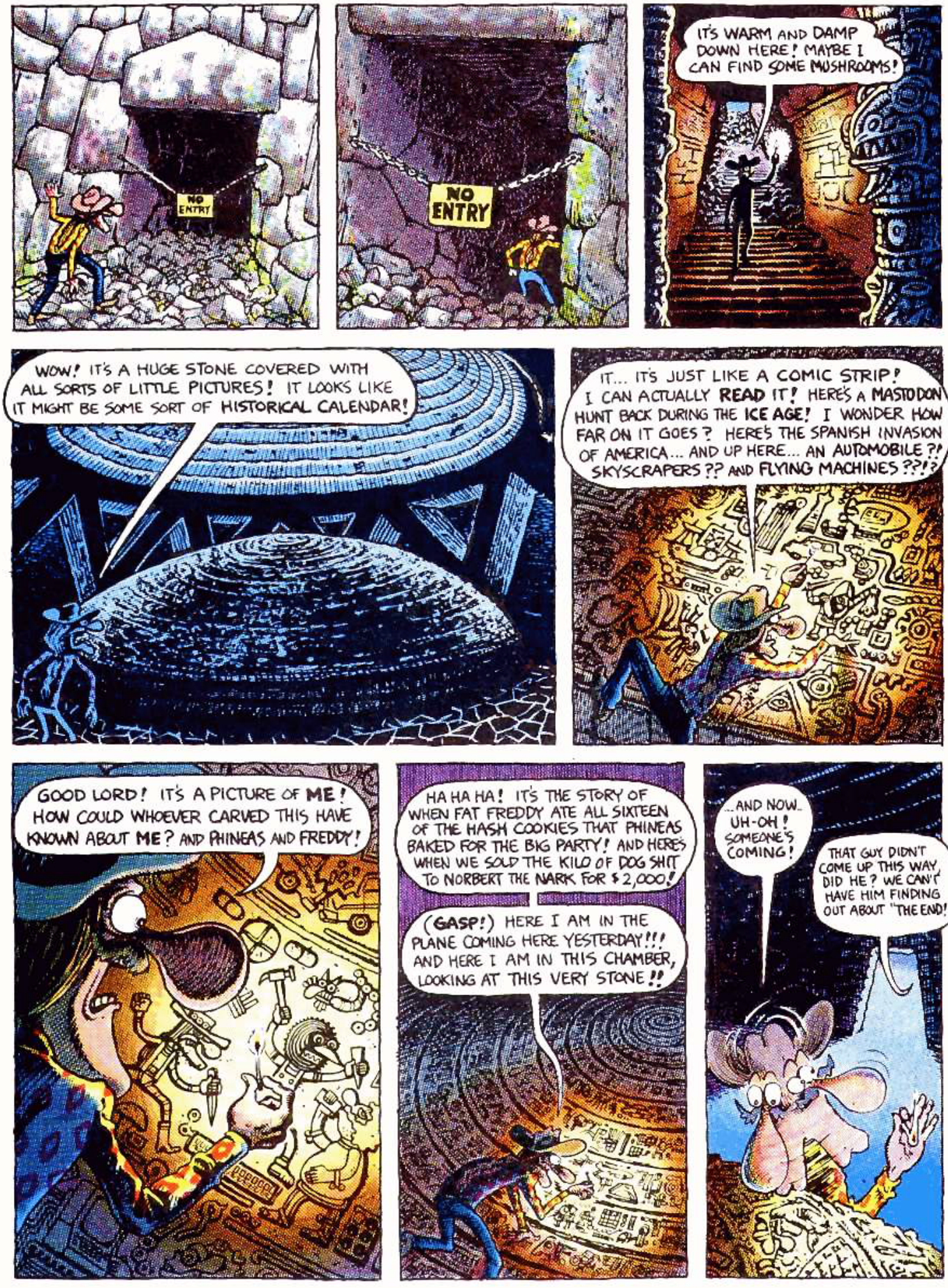

YOU THINK THIS ANTIQUE AIRPLANE IS GONNA MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO BOGOTA IN ONE PIECE ?
OF COURSE! THIS OLD COMMANDO IS COMPLETELY REBUILT, WITH TURBINE ENGINES AND REDESIGNED WINGS! BUT WERE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE ONE STOP, ANYHOW!
WHERE ?
UP IN THE MOUNTAINS, IN BETWEEN HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, AND NICARAGUA, WHERE MEMBERS OF OUR GROUP HAVE SETTLEMENTS! WE KEEP OURSELVES SUPPLIED BY AIRDROP AT NIGHT!
THAT'S WHY WE NEEDED YOU! TO HELP PUSH THOSE CRATES OUT THE CARGO DOOR!
OH YES, MEET MY ASSISTANT, POOTWATL!
ER, UH... HOW!
DELIGHTED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
MEANWHILE, IN THE HIGHRISE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEWLY-FORMED FEDERAL BUREAU OF SUSPICIOUS THOUGHT PROCESSES.
IT WAS THEM, ALL RIGHT, CHIEF! I'D RECOGNIZE THEM ANYWHERE! AND I CLEARLY HEARD THEM SAY THEY WERE GOING TO MEET TOMORROW AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BOGOTA! AND IF NOT TOMORROW, THEN THE NEXT DAY, OR THE DAY AFTER THAT, OR THE DAY...
ALL RIGHT, NORBERT, I'M PUTTING YOU ON OFFICIAL STAKEOUT! HERE'S A ONE-WAY FIRST-CLASS TICKET TO BOGOTA, AND SOME SPENDING MONEY! GET GOING!
IT'LL SURE BE A RELIEF TO GET RID OF THAT GUY! WE CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE WITH HIM AROUND HERE!!
SOON, ABOARD A JUMBO JET TO SOUTH AMERICA...
WOW! HOW EXCITING! MY VERY FIRST FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT! IN EXCITING, ROMANTIC BOGOTA!
WHAT BEAUTIFUL MUSIC! WHAT DELICIOUS FOOD!
SIMULTANEOUSLY, ON A CHARTER FLIGHT TO GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, FAT FREDDY IS JUST BEGINNING TO SOBER UP...
UGH! PHOO! HEY, WHERE CAN I GET A BIG GLASS OF WATER?
WATER? THIS 'CANNA' BE A SCOTSMAN!
AND ON THE SPECIAL AIR ARABE PILGRIMAGE FLIGHT TO MECCA, PHINEAS IS STILL UNCONVINCED HE HAS GOTTEN ON THE WRONG PLANE...
STOP KIDDING AROUND AND BRING ME A DOUBLE VODKA AND TONIC! I MEAN IT! RIGHT NOW!
PRONTO!
إنت أمريكاني مش كده ؟

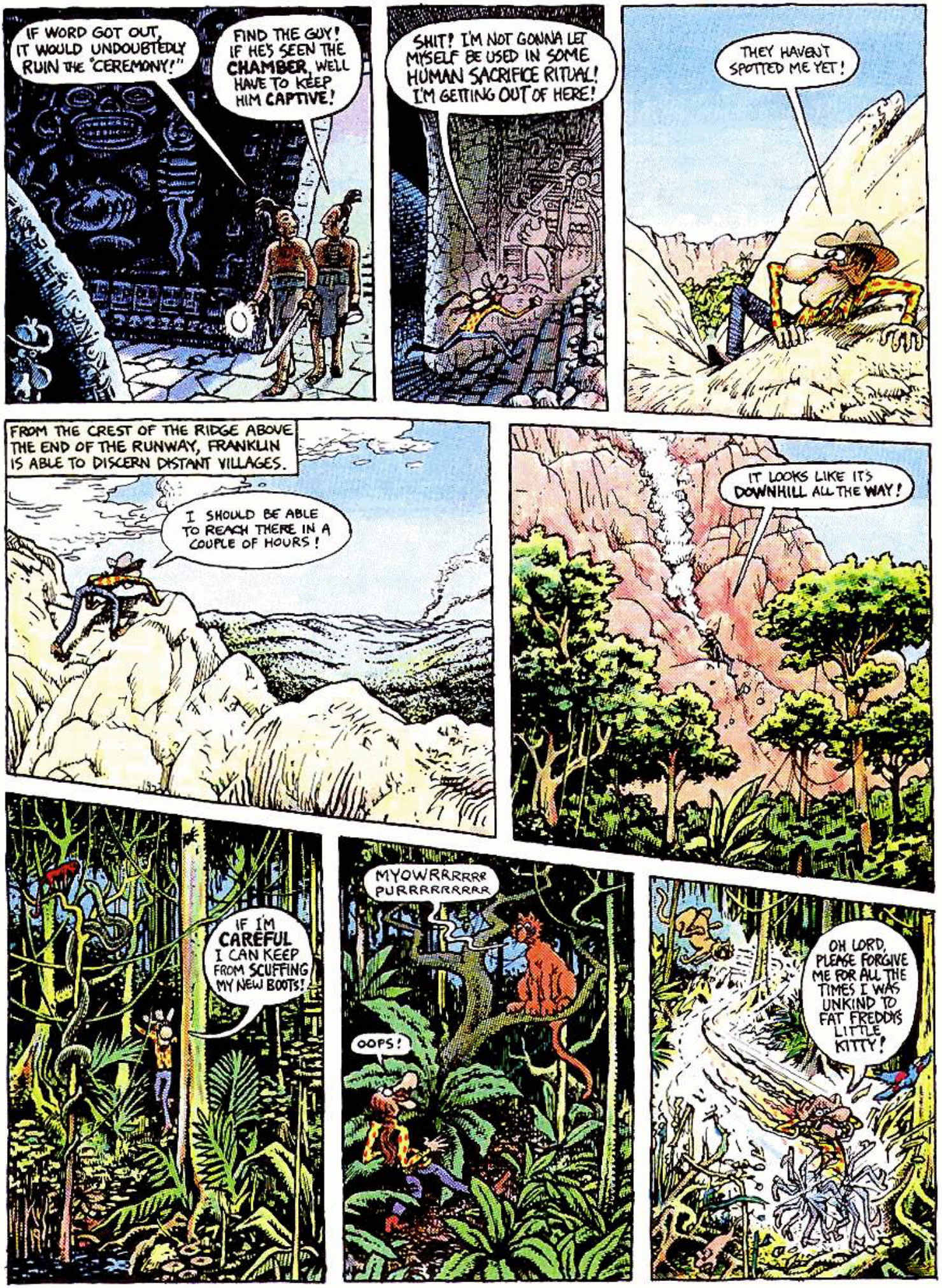

THAT NIGHT, SOMEWHERE OVER CENTRAL AMERICA:
THERE ARE REGIONS OUT HERE THAT ARE SO REMOTE THEY'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN MAPPED! NO ONE KNOWS WHAT COUNTRY THEY'RE IN! NO ROADS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD! ONLY A FEW INDIANS LIVE AROUND THESE PLACES! SO WE BUILT SETTLEMENTS!
WE FLY IN EVERYTHING WE NEED! WE'VE EVEN BUILT A LANDING STRIP AT ONE OF THE SITES!
OKAY, GET READY TO START DROPPING THE STUFF!
I DON'T SEE ANYBODY DOWN THERE!
WELL, THEY'RE DOWN THERE! DROP!
THERE'S THE AIRSTRIP!
I DON'T SEE ANY AIRSTRIP!
IT'S ONLY A COUPLE OF HUNDRED FEET LONG..
GOOD LORD! (GASP!)
BUT IT GOES UP AT THE END...
ARRRGH! (CHOKE!)


AS THE C-46 ROLLS TO A STOP, A NUMBER OF FIGURES EMERGE FROM THE NEARBY DENSE JUNGLE FOLIAGE.
ATTACHING A ROPE TO THE TAIL WHEEL, THEY SWING THE AIRCRAFT AROUND AND PULL IT UP THE INCLINE.
CAMOUFLAGE VINES ARE THEN THROWN OVER THE PLANE, MAKING IT ALMOST TOTALLY INVISIBLE FROM THE AIR.
WOW! IT'S A LITTLE PARADISE! A REGULAR GARDEN OF EDEN!
WHATEVER THAT BOOGER WAS, IT'S NOT ON THE RADAR ANY LONGER!
EITHER THEY MUSTA CRASHED OR ELSE IT WAS SOME KINDA PHANTOM BLIP!
ITS TIME TO GET BACK! WE'RE GETTING LOW ON FUEL!
AIR FORCE F-15'S! BUT THEY CAN'T SEE US DOWN IN THIS LITTLE BASIN! SO FAR WE'RE UNCONTAMINATED BY ANY CONTACT WITH THE FORCES OF AUTHORITY!
MAYBE IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO GET A FEW HOURS REST AND THEN GO ON TO BOGOTA TOMORROW NIGHT!
NO ONE KNOWS WE'RE HERE EXCEPT THE LOCAL INDIANS, AND WE HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM!
WHAT ARE ALL YOU PEOPLE DOING HERE?
SOME OF US ARE INTO ARCHITECTURE, SOME ARE INTO TECHNOLOGIES LIKE SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL HEAT COLLECTION, AND SOME ARE INTO GARDENING!
SOME OF US JUST LIKE TO SIT AROUND IN OUR HOT TUBS!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
YOU CAN STAY HERE AT THE GUEST HOUSE! I HAVE MY OWN PLACE OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RAVINE!
GUEST HOUSE
GOOD NIGHT! SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!

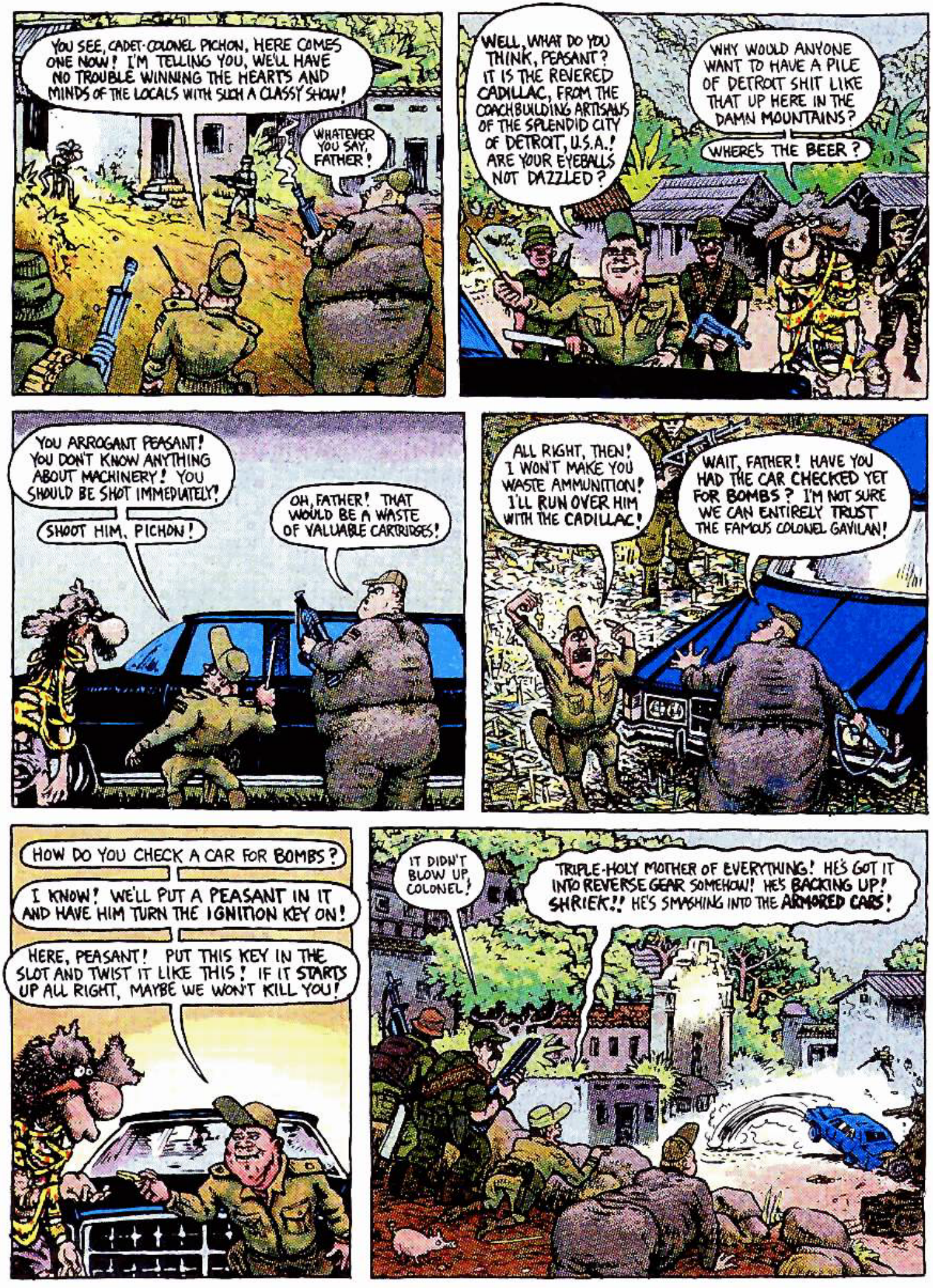

(HACK! COUGH! I COULD SURE USE SOME BREAKFAST!)
YOO HOO! EXCUSE ME! DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY KEEP THE BEER AROUND THIS PLACE?
OH, YOU MUST BE A NEWCOMER! NOBODY DOES DRUGS UP HERE! WE DON'T NEED TO! THERES PLENTY TO KEEP US BUSY!
THE NEXT MORNING FRANKLIN AWAKENS EARLY AND VENTURES FORTH TO EXPLORE HIS SURROUNDINGS

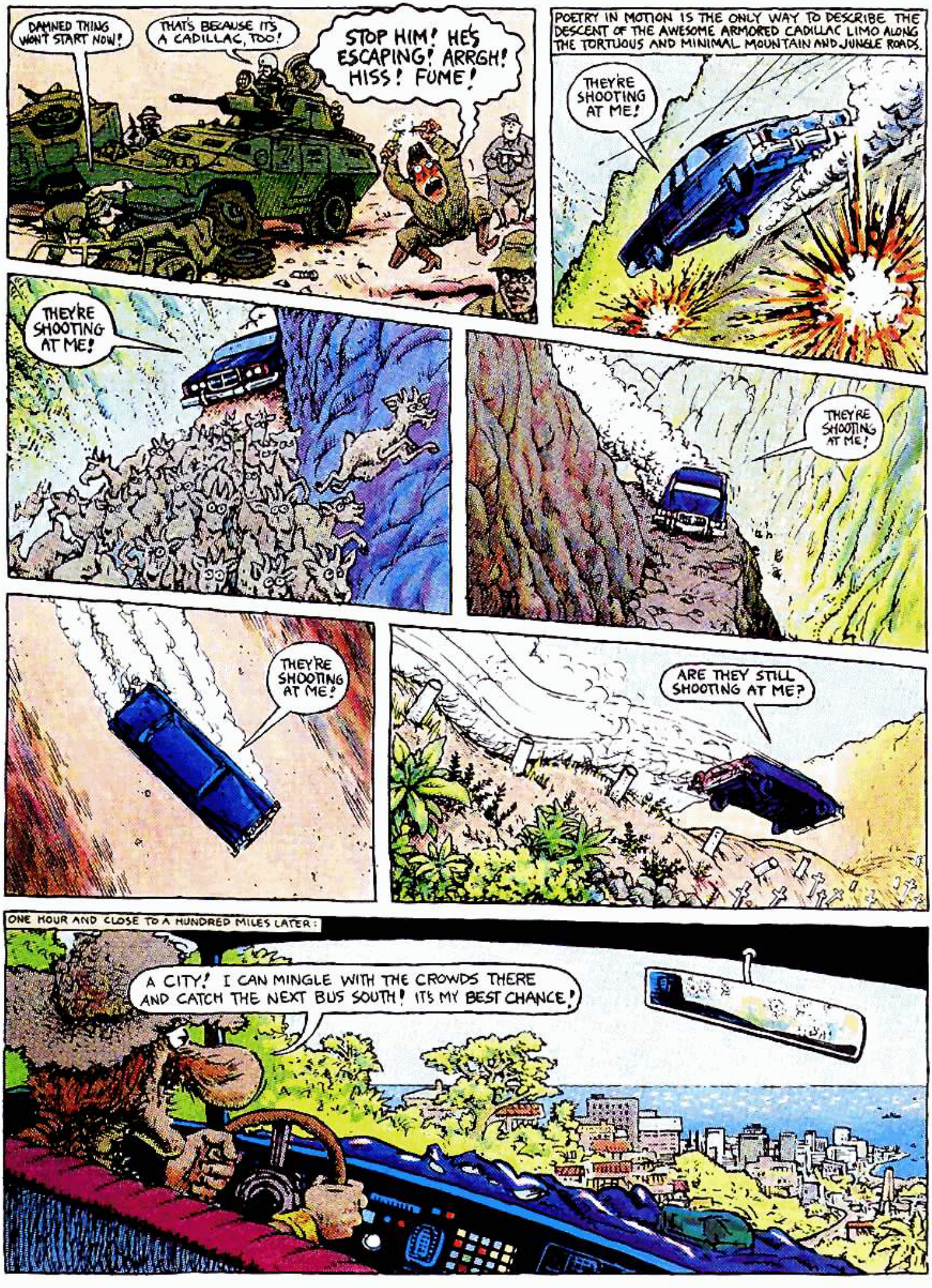


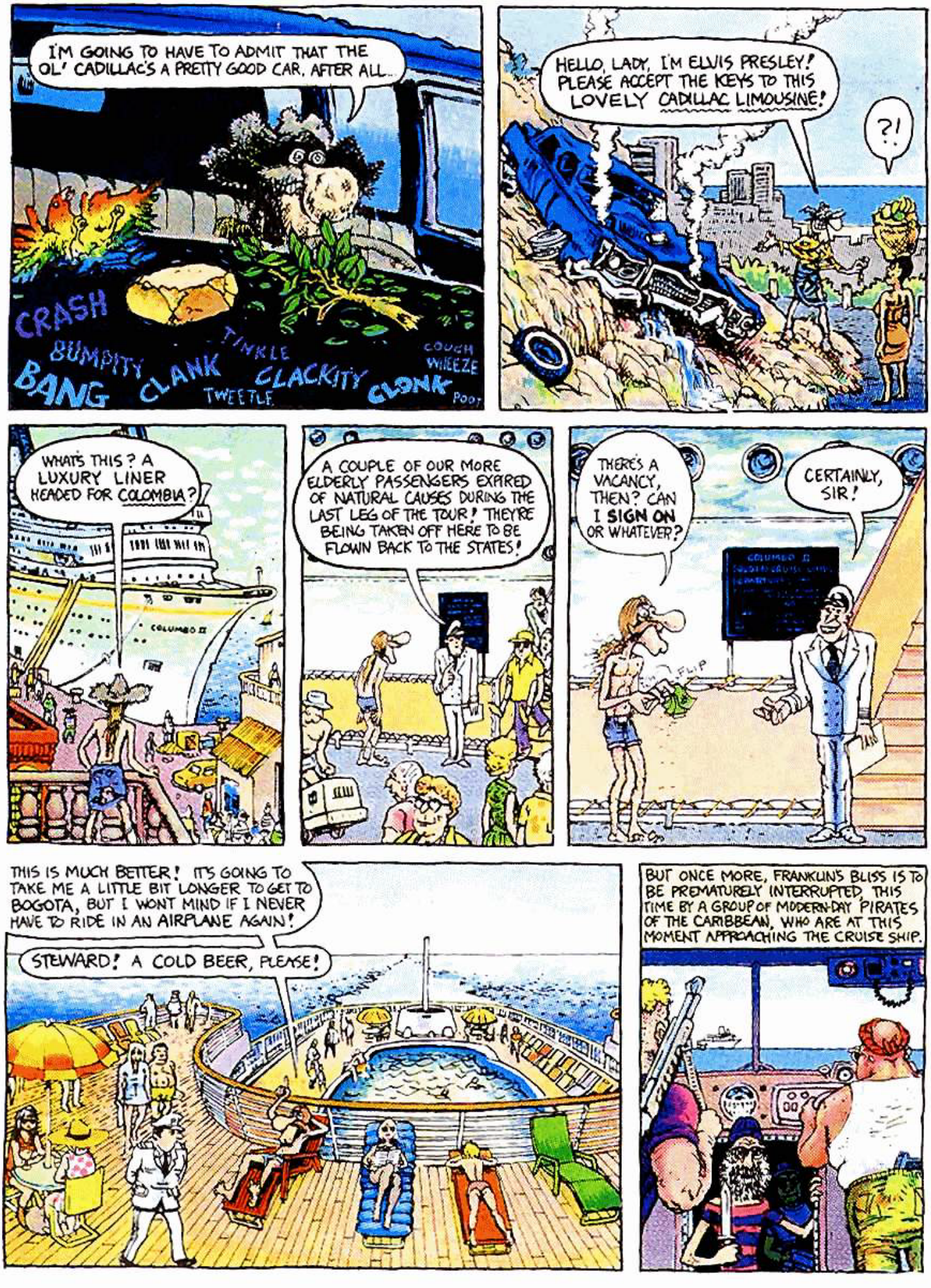

NO ENTRY
NO ENTRY
IT'S WARM AND DAMP DOWN HERE! MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME MUSHROOMS!
WOW! IT'S A HUGE STONE COVERED WITH ALL SORTS OF LITTLE PICTURES! IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF HISTORICAL CALENDAR!
IT... IT'S JUST LIKE A COMIC STRIP! I CAN ACTUALLY READ IT! HERE'S A MASTODON HUNT BACK DURING THE ICE AGE! I WONDER HOW FAR ON IT GOES? HERE'S THE SPANISH INVASION OF AMERICA... AND UP HERE... AN AUTOMOBILE?! SKYSCRAPERS?? AND FLYING MACHINES??!?
GOOD LORD! IT'S A PICTURE OF ME! HOW COULD WHOEVER CARVED THIS HAVE KNOWN ABOUT ME? AND PHINEAS AND FREDDY!
HA HA HA! IT'S THE STORY OF WHEN FAT FREDDY ATE ALL SIXTEEN OF THE HASH COOKIES THAT PHINEAS BAKED FOR THE BIG PARTY! AND HERE'S WHEN WE SOLD THE KILO OF DOG SHIT TO NORBERT THE NARK FOR $2,000!
(GASP!) HERE I AM IN THE PLANE COMING HERE YESTERDAY!!! AND HERE I AM IN THIS CHAMBER, LOOKING AT THIS VERY STONE!!
...AND NOW... UH-OH! SOMEONE'S COMING!
THAT GUY DIDN'T COME UP THIS WAY, DID HE? WE CAN'T HAVE HIM FINDING OUT ABOUT "THE END!"

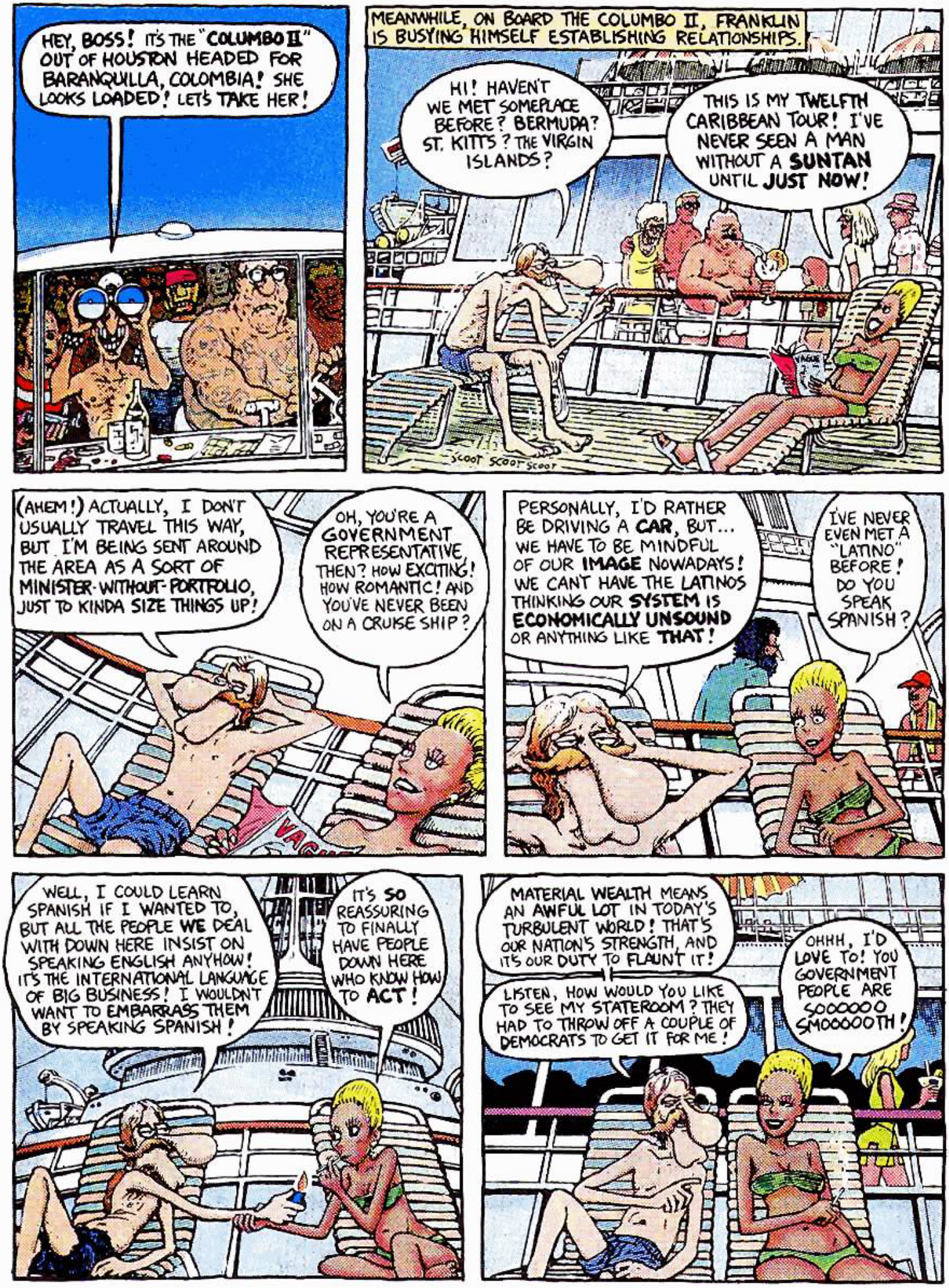

IF WORD GOT OUT, IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RUIN THE "CEREMONY!"
FIND THE GUY! IF HE'S SEEN THE CHAMBER, WELL HAVE TO KEEP HIM CAPTIVE!
SHIT! I'M NOT GONNA LET MYSELF BE USED IN SOME HUMAN SACRIFICE RITUAL! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
THEY HAVEN'T SPOTTED ME YET!
FROM THE CREST OF THE RIDGE ABOVE THE END OF THE RUNWAY, FRANKLIN IS ABLE TO DISCERN DISTANT VILLAGES.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THERE IN A COUPLE OF HOURS!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S DOWNHILL ALL THE WAY!
IF I'M CAREFUL I CAN KEEP FROM SCUFFING MY NEW BOOTS!
MYOWRRRRR PURRRRRRRR
OOPS!
OH LORD, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR ALL THE TIMES I WAS UNKIND TO FAT FREDDYS LITTLE KITTY!

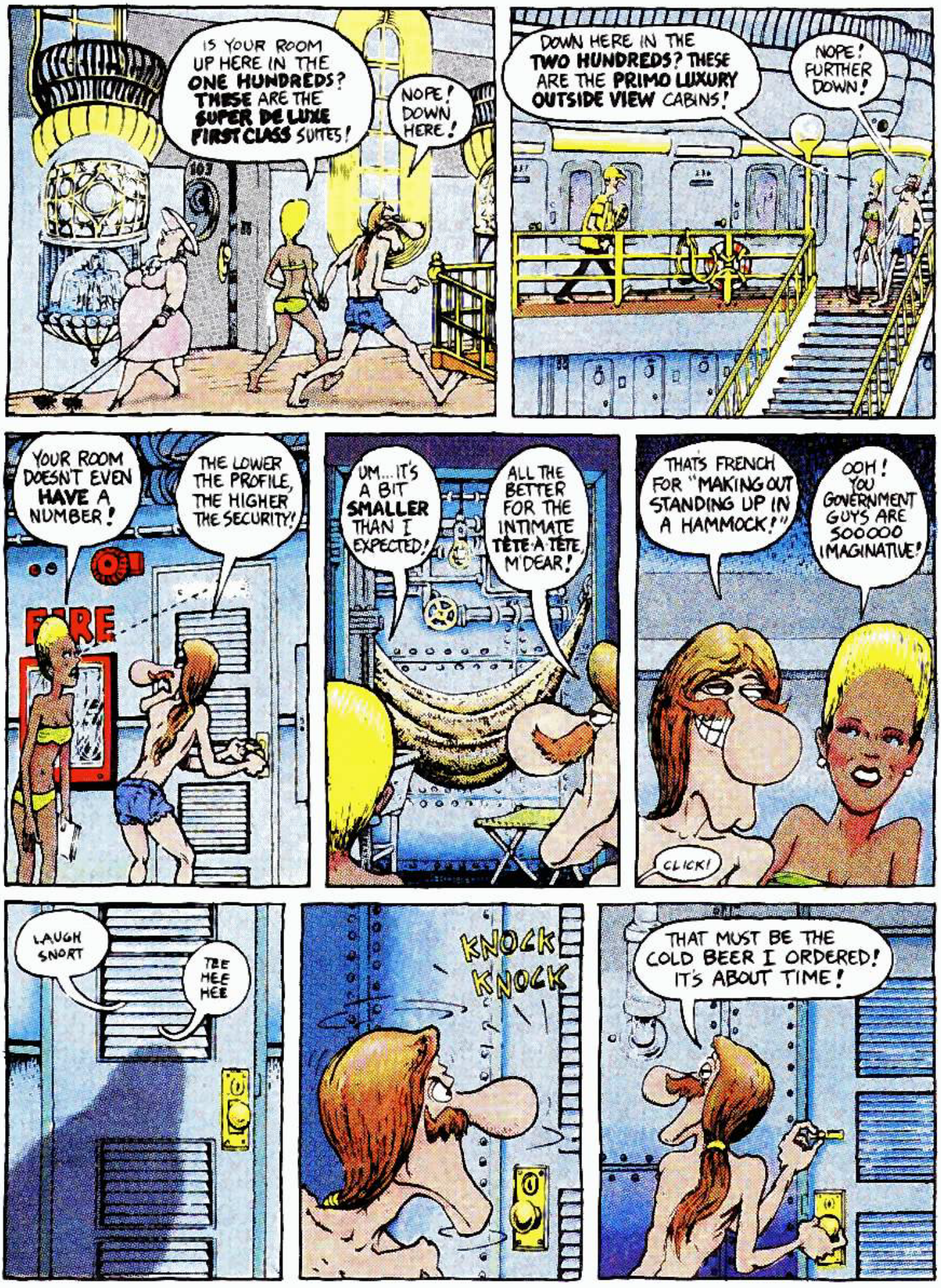
BY THE TIME FRANKLIN REACHES THE FIRST REMOTE VILLAGE, HIS CLOTHING IS VIRTUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE NATIVE GARB.
YOU GOT ANY COLD BEER, AMIGO?
NO BEER HERE! COSTS TOO MUCH!
MEANWHILE, A MILITARY CONVOY IS APPROACHING THE VILLAGE FROM THE DOWNHILL DIRECTION.
MOVE QUICKLY! WE MUST HAVE A FLAT PLACE FOR THE HELICOPTER TO LAND! THERE! CUT DOWN THOSE PLANTS IN THAT LITTLE PATCH THERE!
OKAY! BRING 'ER IN!
FUMP FUMP FUMP FUMP FUMP FUMP
IT'S A GIFT FROM COLONEL GAVILAN, SIR! IT'S A NEW ARMORED CADILLAC LIMOUSINE!
VILLAGERS! THIS IS COLONEL GALLITO! ASSEMBLE AT ONCE IN THE TOWN GARDEN SO THAT YOU MAY MARVEL AT THE NEW SHINY AUTO THAT WAS A GIFT FROM THE FAMOUS COLONEL GAVILAN TO MY OWN ILLUSTRIOUS SELF!
NO ONE HEARD ME!! FIRE A BURST INTO THE AIR, CADET-COLONEL PICHON!
FUMP FUMP FUMP FUMP
FIREWORKS! OH BOY! MAYBE I'VE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME FOR SOME SORT OF FIESTA!


YOU SEE, CADET-COLONEL PICHON, HERE COMES ONE NOW! I'M TELLING YOU, WE'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE WINNING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE LOCALS WITH SUCH A CLASSY SHOW!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, FATHER!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, PEASANT? IT IS THE REVERED CADILLAC, FROM THE COACHBUILDING ARTISANS OF THE SPLENDID CITY OF DETROIT, U.S.A.! ARE YOUR EYEBALLS NOT DAZZLED?
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO HAVE A PILE OF DETROIT SHIT LIKE THAT UP HERE IN THE DAMN MOUNTAINS?
WHERE'S THE BEER?
YOU ARROGANT PEASANT! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MACHINERY! YOU SHOULD BE SHOT IMMEDIATELY!
SHOOT HIM, PICHON!
OH, FATHER! THAT WOULD BE A WASTE OF VALUABLE CARTRIDGES!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! I WON'T MAKE YOU WASTE AMMUNITION! I'LL RUN OVER HIM WITH THE CADILLAC!
WAIT, FATHER! HAVE YOU HAD THE CAR CHECKED YET FOR BOMBS? I'M NOT SURE WE CAN ENTIRELY TRUST THE FAMOUS COLONEL GAVILAN!
HOW DO YOU CHECK A CAR FOR BOMBS?
I KNOW! WE'LL PUT A PEASANT IN IT AND HAVE HIM TURN THE IGNITION KEY ON!
HERE, PEASANT! PUT THIS KEY IN THE SLOT AND TWIST IT LIKE THIS! IF IT STARTS UP ALL RIGHT, MAYBE WE WON'T KILL YOU!
IT DIDN'T BLOW UP, COLONEL!
TRIPLE-HOLY MOTHER OF EVERYTHING! HE'S GOT IT INTO REVERSE GEAR SOMEHOW! HE'S BACKING UP! SHRIEK!! HE'S SMASHING INTO THE ARMORED CARS!

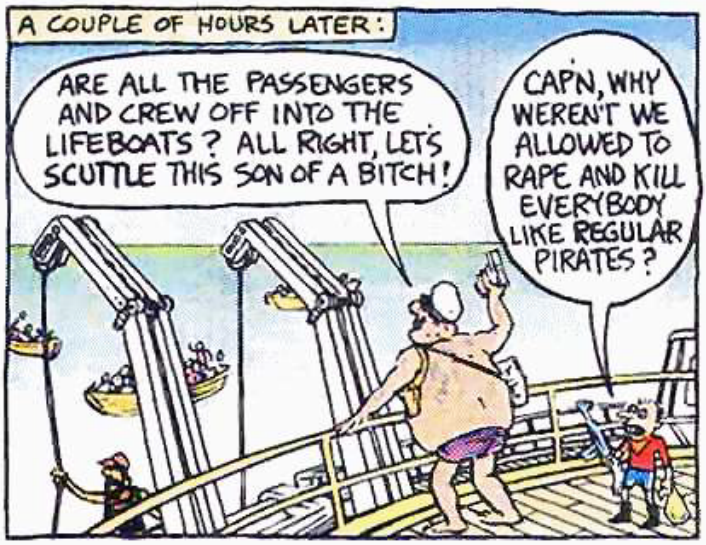

DAMNED THING WON'T START NOW!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S A CADILLAC, TOO!
STOP HIM! HE'S ESCAPING! ARRGH! HISS! FUME!
POETRY IN MOTION IS THE ONLY WAY TO DESCRIBE THE DESCENT OF THE AWESOME ARMORED CADILLAC LIMO ALONG THE TORTUOUS AND MINIMAL MOUNTAIN AND JUNGLE ROADS.
THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME!
THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME!
THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME!
THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME!
ARE THEY STILL SHOOTING AT ME?
ONE HOUR AND CLOSE TO A HUNDRED MILES LATER:
A CITY! I CAN MINGLE WITH THE CROWDS THERE AND CATCH THE NEXT BUS SOUTH! IT'S MY BEST CHANCE!


I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THE OL' CADILLAC'S A PRETTY GOOD CAR, AFTER ALL...
CRASH
BUMPITY
TINKLE
COUGH
WHEEZE
BANG
CLANK
CLACKITY
TWEETLE
CLONK
POOT
HELLO, LADY, I'M ELVIS PRESLEY! PLEASE ACCEPT THE KEYS TO THIS LOVELY CADILLAC LIMOUSINE!
?!
WHAT'S THIS? A LUXURY LINER HEADED FOR COLOMBIA?
COLUMBO II
A COUPLE OF OUR MORE ELDERLY PASSENGERS EXPIRED OF NATURAL CAUSES DURING THE LAST LEG OF THE TOUR! THEY'RE BEING TAKEN OFF HERE TO BE FLOWN BACK TO THE STATES!
THERE'S A VACANCY, THEN? CAN I SIGN ON OR WHATEVER?
CERTAINLY, SIR!
FLIP
THIS IS MUCH BETTER! IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME A LITTLE BIT LONGER TO GET TO BOGOTA, BUT I WONT MIND IF I NEVER HAVE TO RIDE IN AN AIRPLANE AGAIN!
STEWARD! A COLD BEER, PLEASE!
BUT ONCE MORE, FRANKLIN'S BLISS IS TO BE PREMATURELY INTERRUPTED, THIS TIME BY A GROUP OF MODERN-DAY PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN, WHO ARE AT THIS MOMENT APPROACHING THE CRUISE SHIP.

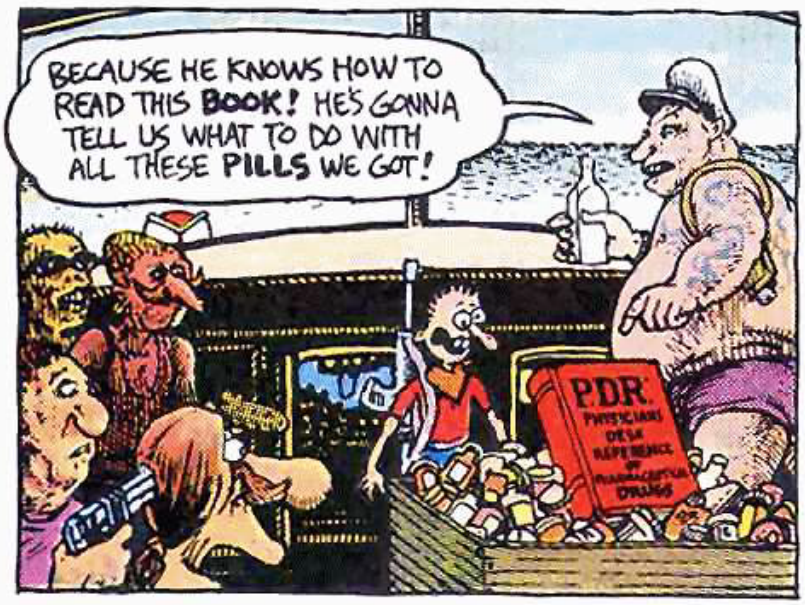

HEY, BOSS! IT'S THE "COLUMBO II" OUT OF HOUSTON HEADED FOR BARANQUILLA, COLOMBIA! SHE LOOKS LOADED! LET'S TAKE HER!
MEANWHILE, ON BOARD THE COLUMBO II, FRANKLIN IS BUSYING HIMSELF ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS.
HI! HAVEN'T WE MET SOMEPLACE BEFORE? BERMUDA? ST. KITTS? THE VIRGIN ISLANDS?
THIS IS MY TWELFTH CARIBBEAN TOUR! I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN WITHOUT A SUNTAN UNTIL JUST NOW!
SCOOT SCOOT SCOOT
(AHEM!) ACTUALLY, I DON'T USUALLY TRAVEL THIS WAY, BUT I'M BEING SENT AROUND THE AREA AS A SORT OF MINISTER-WITHOUT-PORTFOLIO, JUST TO KINDA SIZE THINGS UP!
OH, YOU'RE A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, THEN? HOW EXCITING! HOW ROMANTIC! AND YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ON A CRUISE SHIP?
PERSONALLY, I'D RATHER BE DRIVING A CAR, BUT... WE HAVE TO BE MINDFUL OF OUR IMAGE NOWADAYS! WE CAN'T HAVE THE LATINOS THINKING OUR SYSTEM IS ECONOMICALLY UNSOUND OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
I'VE NEVER EVEN MET A "LATINO" BEFORE! DO YOU SPEAK SPANISH?
WELL, I COULD LEARN SPANISH IF I WANTED TO, BUT ALL THE PEOPLE WE DEAL WITH DOWN HERE INSIST ON SPEAKING ENGLISH ANYHOW! IT'S THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE OF BIG BUSINESS! I WOULDN'T WANT TO EMBARRASS THEM BY SPEAKING SPANISH!
IT'S SO REASSURING TO FINALLY HAVE PEOPLE DOWN HERE WHO KNOW HOW TO ACT!
MATERIAL WEALTH MEANS AN AWFUL LOT IN TODAY'S TURBULENT WORLD! THAT'S OUR NATION'S STRENGTH, AND IT'S OUR DUTY TO FLAUNT IT!
LISTEN, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MY STATEROOM? THEY HAD TO THROW OFF A COUPLE OF DEMOCRATS TO GET IT FOR ME!
OHHH, I'D LOVE TO! YOU GOVERNMENT PEOPLE ARE SOOOOOO SMOOOOOTH!


IS YOUR ROOM UP HERE IN THE ONE HUNDREDS? THESE ARE THE SUPER DE LUXE FIRST CLASS SUITES!
NOPE! DOWN HERE!
DOWN HERE IN THE TWO HUNDREDS? THESE ARE THE PRIMO LUXURY OUTSIDE VIEW CABINS!
NOPE! FURTHER DOWN!
YOUR ROOM DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A NUMBER!
THE LOWER THE PROFILE, THE HIGHER THE SECURITY!
FIRE
UM... IT'S A BIT SMALLER THAN I EXPECTED!
ALL THE BETTER FOR THE INTIMATE TÊTE-A-TÊTE, M'DEAR!
THAT'S FRENCH FOR "MAKING OUT STANDING UP IN A HAMMOCK!"
OOH! YOU GOVERNMENT GUYS ARE SOOOOO IMAGINATIVE!
CLICK!
LAUGH SNORT
TEE HEE HEE
KNOCK KNOCK
THAT MUST BE THE COLD BEER I ORDERED! IT'S ABOUT TIME!

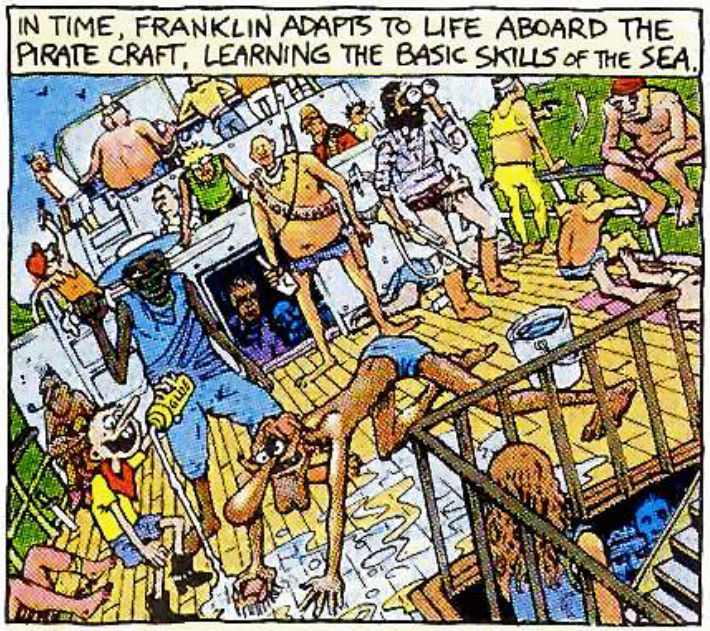
HEY FELLAS! HERE'S ONE WE MISSED!

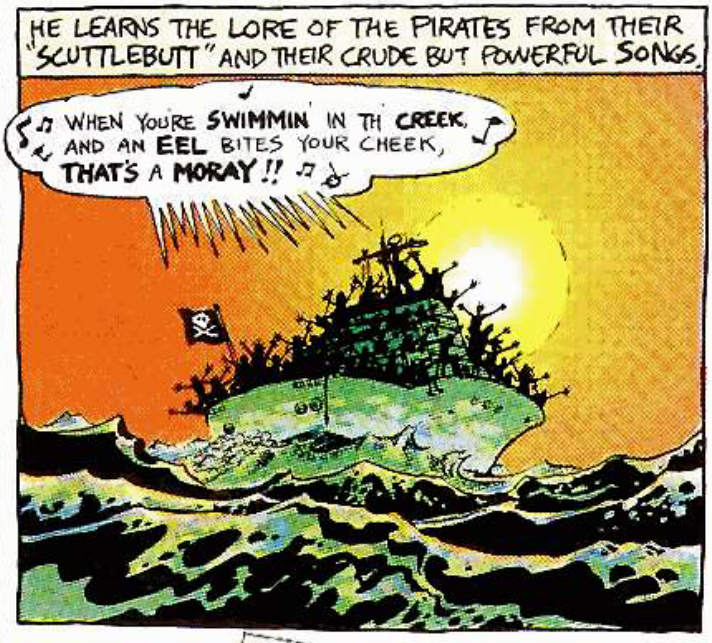

A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER:
ARE ALL THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OFF INTO THE LIFEBOATS? ALL RIGHT, LET'S SCUTTLE THIS SON OF A BITCH!
CAPN, WHY WEREN'T WE ALLOWED TO RAPE AND KILL EVERYBODY LIKE REGULAR PIRATES?

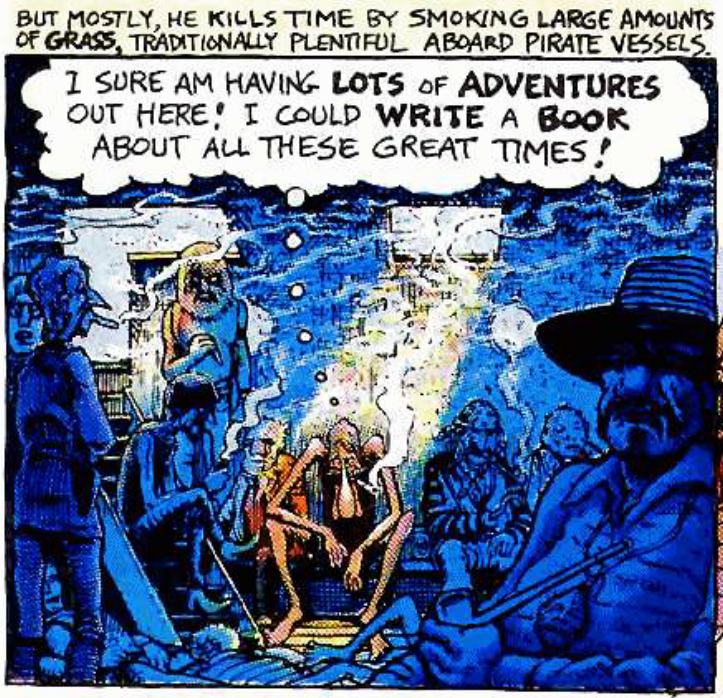
IF WE KILL THEM, THEY WON'T BRING US ANY MORE SHIPS TO LOOT, THAT'S WHY!
WHY ARE WE KEEPING THIS GUY THEN, BOSS?


BECAUSE HE KNOWS HOW TO READ THIS BOOK! HE'S GONNA TELL US WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THESE PILLS WE GOT!
P.D.R.

SO, FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS:
RED AND YELLER, KILL A FELLER; GREEN AND WHITE, UP ALL NIGHT!

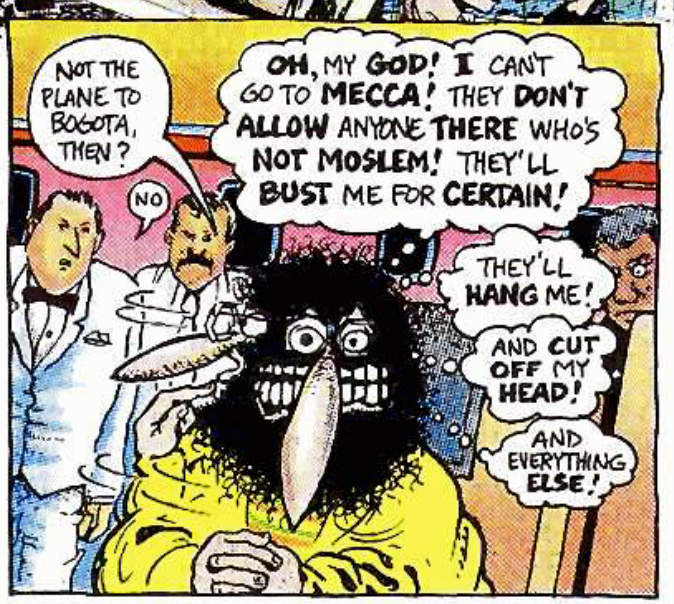

IN TIME, FRANKLIN ADAPTS TO LIFE ABOARD THE PIRATE CRAFT, LEARNING THE BASIC SKILLS OF THE SEA.


HE LEARNS THE LORE OF THE PIRATES FROM THEIR "SCUTTLEBUTT" AND THEIR CRUDE BUT POWERFUL SONGS.
WHEN YOU'RE SWIMMIN' IN TH' CREEK, AND AN EEL BITES YOUR CHEEK, THAT'S A MORAY!!

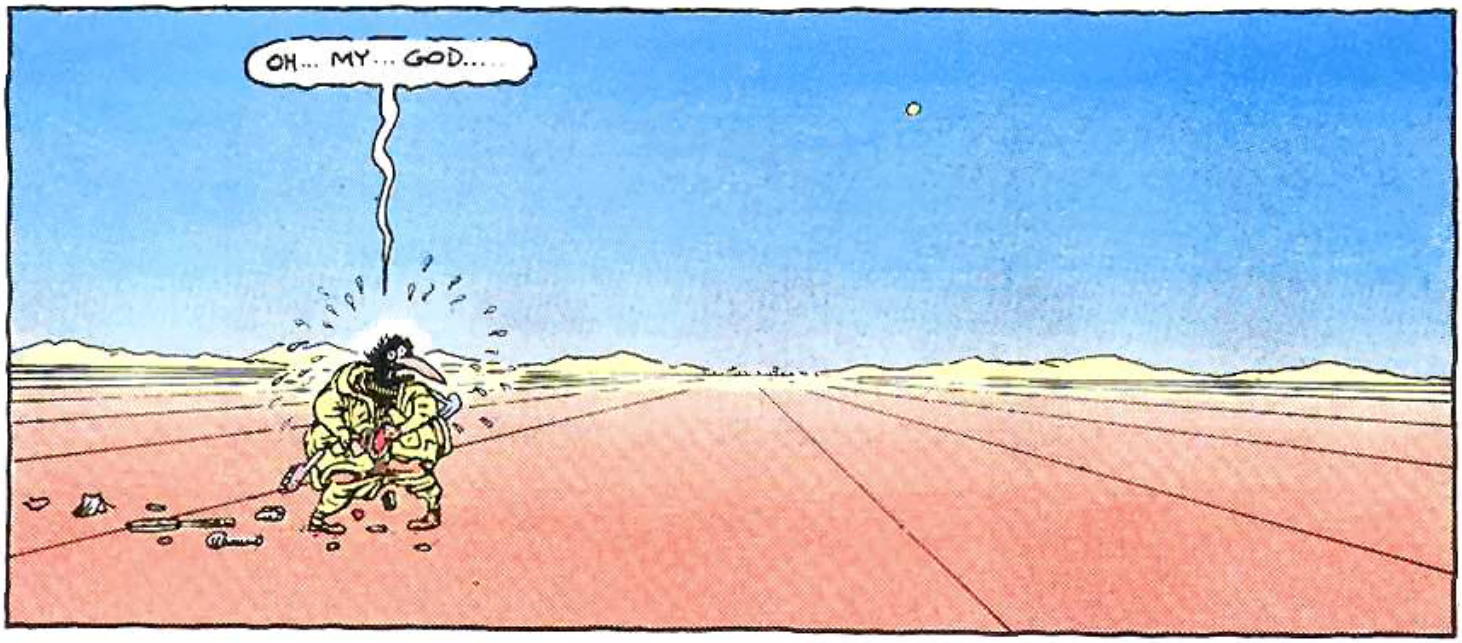

BUT MOSTLY, HE KILLS TIME BY SMOKING LARGE AMOUNTS OF GRASS, TRADITIONALLY PLENTIFUL ABOARD PIRATE VESSELS.
I SURE AM HAVING LOTS OF ADVENTURES OUT HERE! I COULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT ALL THESE GREAT TIMES!

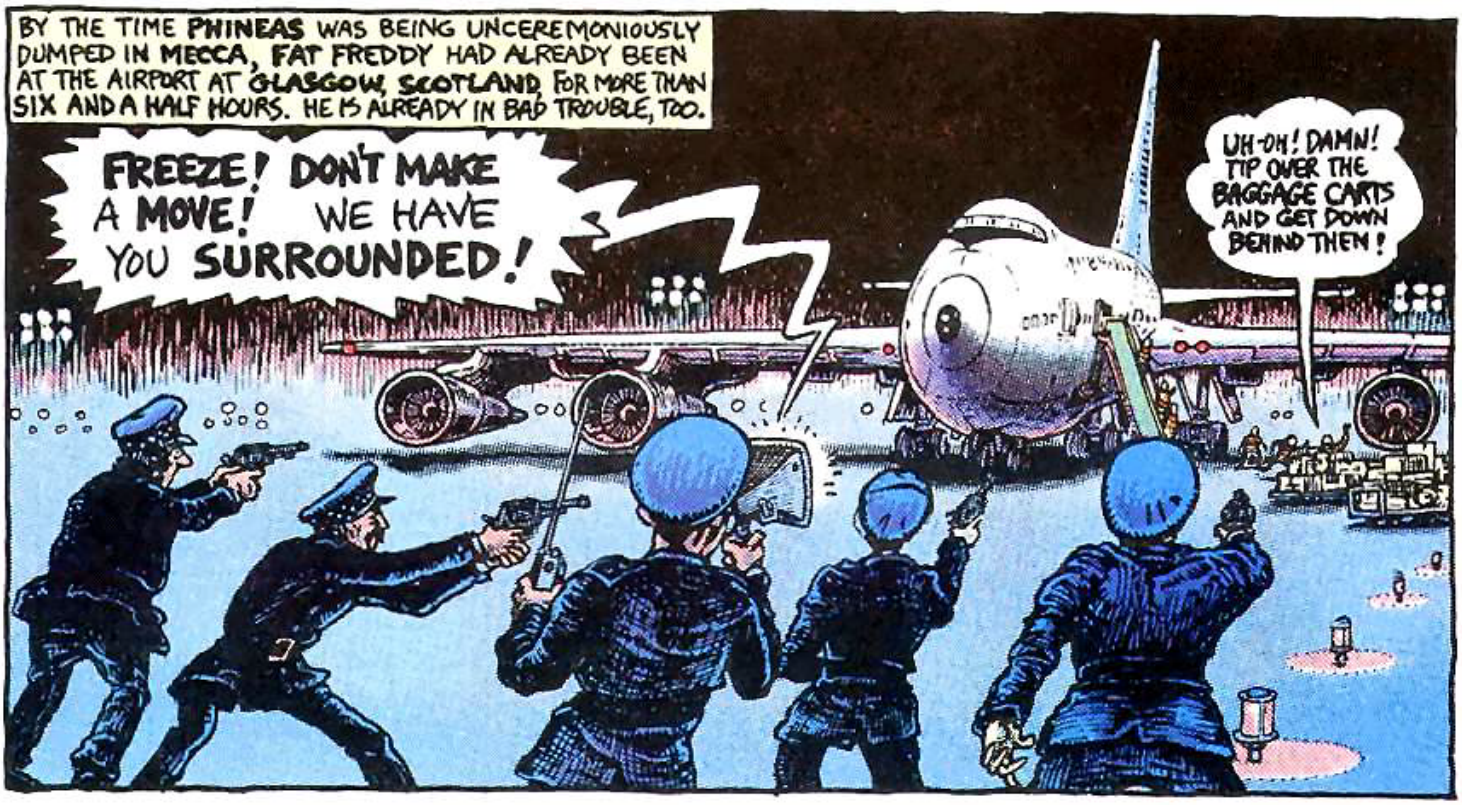
...A COMIC STRIP! I'D CALL IT... ...UH... UHH.... "FRANKLIN AND THE PIRATES!"
ORLD'S ULLEST CARTOONS
THE MUTHALODE SUNDAY MOR MYOPIC POST-INTELLIGE
FRANKLIN AND THE PIRATES
by FRANK FREAK
YAH! WHERE ARE ALL THE GUNS? THE AMMO? THIS PLANES FULL OF DRUGS! HOW CAN WE FIGHT?
UM... AT LEAST WERE ALIVE.... ALIVE AND STONED!
FRANKLIN, WHY DON'T YOU TELL YOUR GOVERNMENT TO GET THE FUCK OUT OF EL SALVADOR?
ER— UH—

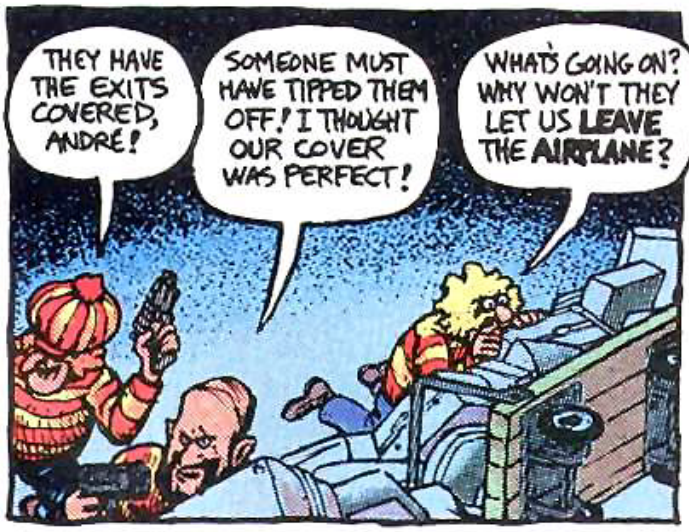
MEANWHILE, PHINEAS IS AT LAST REALIZING THAT HE IS TRULY ON THE WRONG FLIGHT.
OKAY, THEN, YOU'RE ALL MOSLEM! WHY ARE ALL YOU MOSLEMS FLYING TO BOGOTA, COLOMBIA?
AS I SAID, THE AIRPLANE IS NOT THE ONE YOU THINK! WE ARE FLYING TO MECCA! THIS IS THE SPECIAL CHARTER PILGRIMAGE FLIGHT DIRECT TO THE HOLIEST OF AIRPORTS! HOW DID YOU GET ABOARD?


NOT THE PLANE TO BOGOTA, THEN?
NO
OH, MY GOD! I CAN'T GO TO MECCA! THEY DON'T ALLOW ANYONE THERE WHO'S NOT MOSLEM! THEY'LL BUST ME FOR CERTAIN!
THEY'LL HANG ME!
AND CUT OFF MY HEAD!
AND EVERYTHING ELSE!

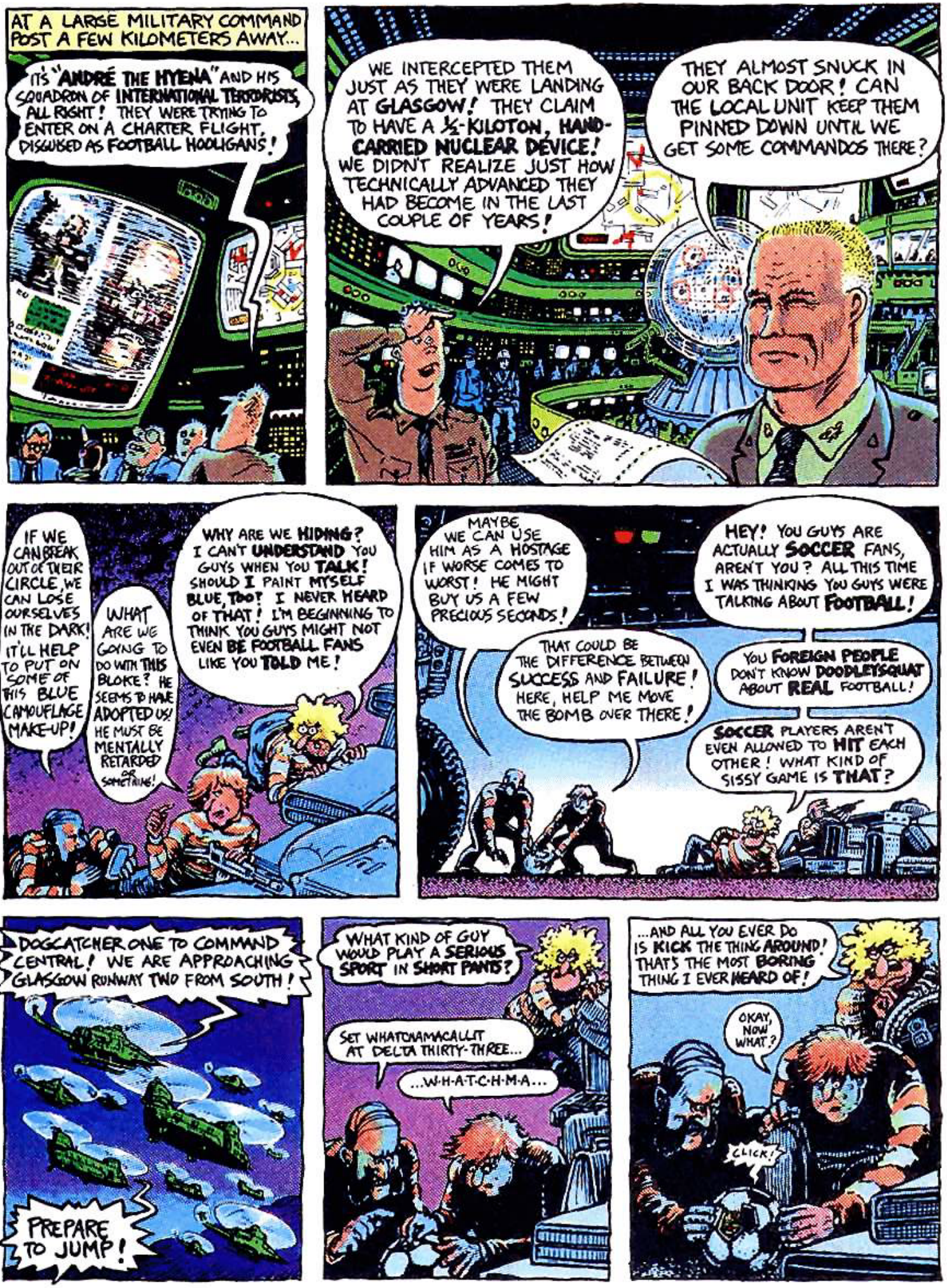
لكة!
NO! NO! NO!
I REFUSE! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME GET OFF THIS AIRPLANE!
SIR! YOU MUST REPORT TO AIRPORT CUSTOMS!
AAARRRGH!

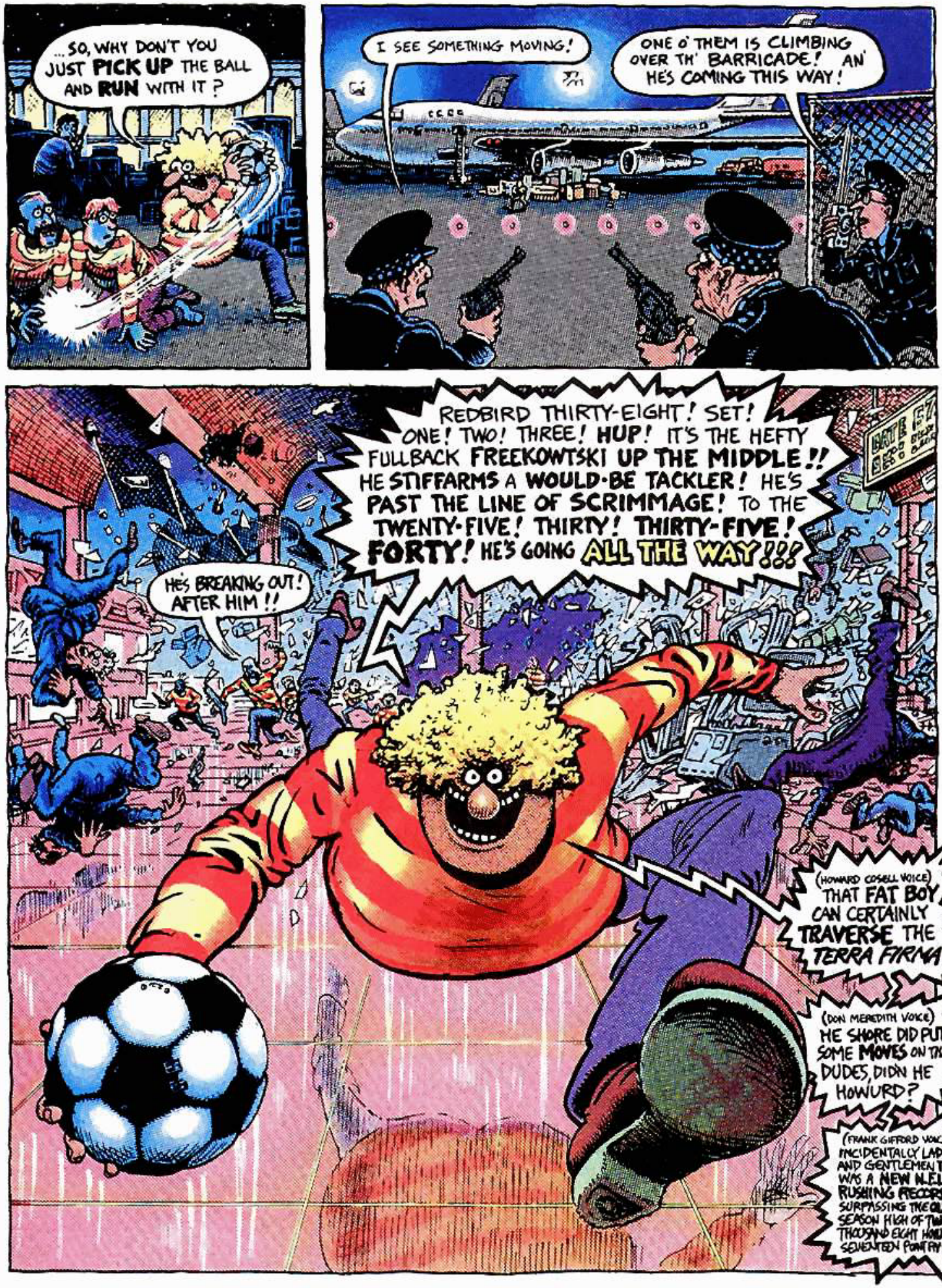

OH... MY... GOD.....

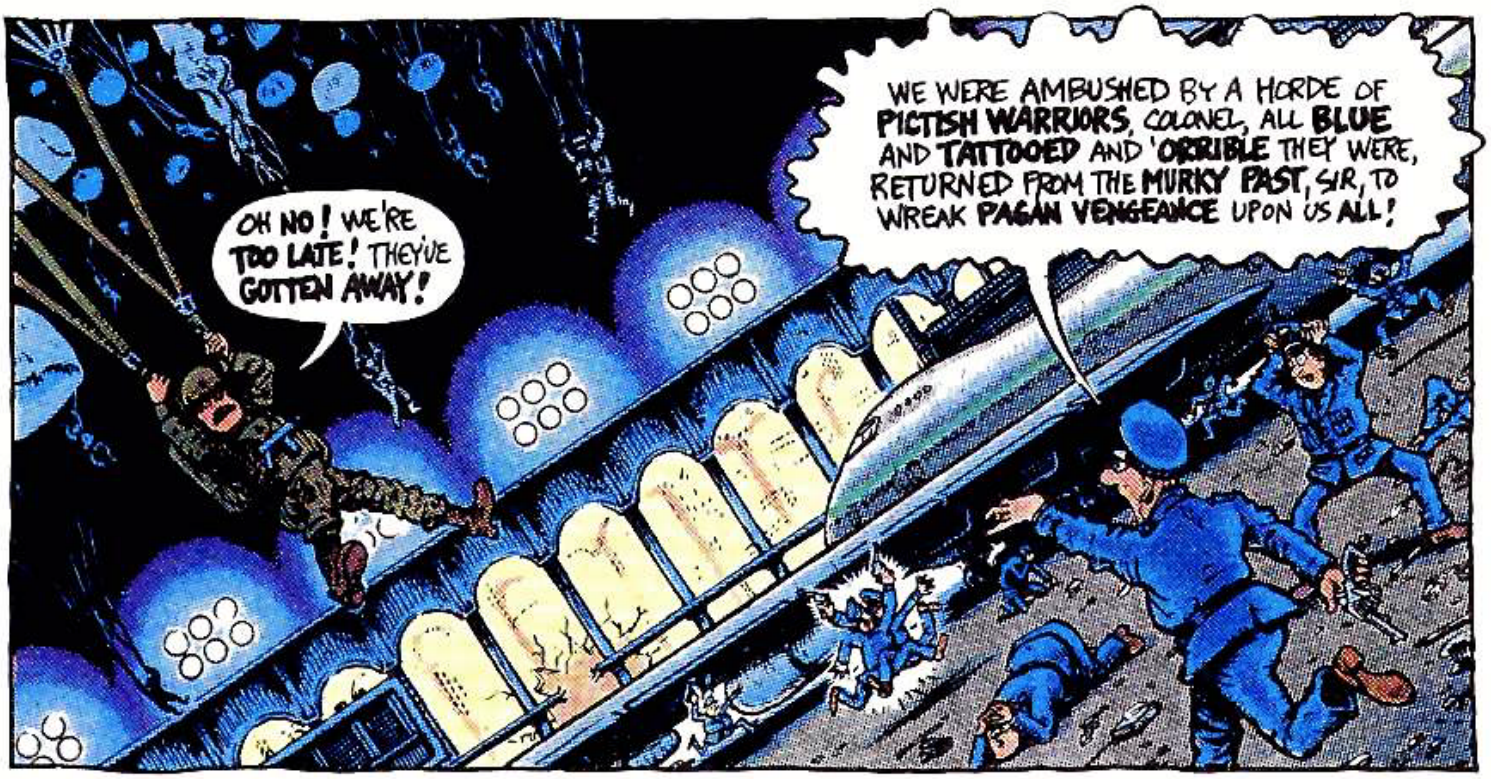

BY THE TIME PHINEAS WAS BEING UNCEREMONIOUSLY DUMPED IN MECCA, FAT FREDDY HAD ALREADY BEEN AT THE AIRPORT AT GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, FOR MORE THAN SIX AND A HALF HOURS. HE IS ALREADY IN BAD TROUBLE, TOO.
FREEZE! DON'T MAKE A MOVE! WE HAVE YOU SURROUNDED!
UH-OH! DAMN! TIP OVER THE BAGGAGE CARTS AND GET DOWN BEHIND THEM!


THEY HAVE THE EXITS COVERED, ANDRÉ!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE TIPPED THEM OFF! I THOUGHT OUR COVER WAS PERFECT!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY WON'T THEY LET US LEAVE THE AIRPLANE?

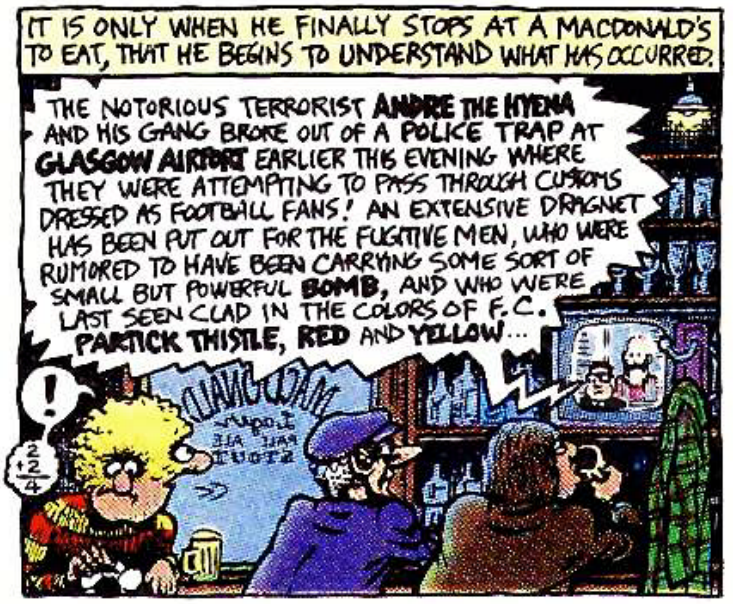
IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN FAT FREDDY THINKS...
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SPECIAL FORCES ARRIVE!
GIVE ME THE BOMB! WE HAVE TO SET IT TO GO OFF IF THEY KILL US ALL!
WHY ALL THE SIRENS? DO ALL WE FOOTBALL FANS HAVE THIS BAD A REPUTATION HERE?

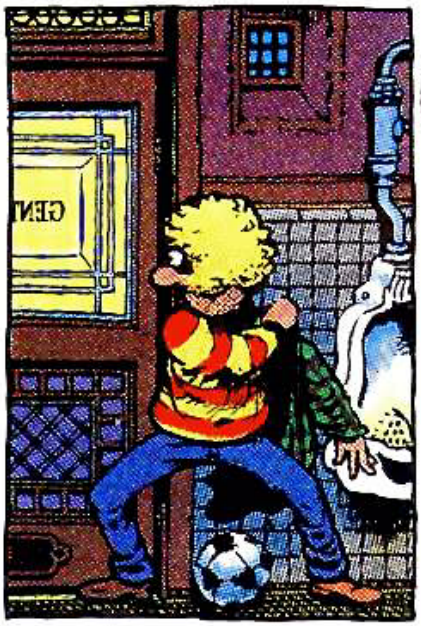

AT A LARGE MILITARY COMMAND POST A FEW KILOMETERS AWAY...
IT'S "ANDRÉ THE HYENA" AND HIS SQUADRON OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS, ALL RIGHT! THEY WERE TRYING TO ENTER ON A CHARTER FLIGHT, DISGUISED AS FOOTBALL HOOLIGANS!
WE INTERCEPTED THEM JUST AS THEY WERE LANDING AT GLASGOW! THEY CLAIM TO HAVE A ½-KILOTON, HAND-CARRIED NUCLEAR DEVICE! WE DIDN'T REALIZE JUST HOW TECHNICALLY ADVANCED THEY HAD BECOME IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS!
THEY ALMOST SNUCK IN OUR BACK DOOR! CAN THE LOCAL UNIT KEEP THEM PINNED DOWN UNTIL WE GET SOME COMMANDOS THERE?
IF WE CAN BREAK OUT OF THEIR CIRCLE, WE CAN LOSE OURSELVES IN THE DARK! IT'LL HELP TO PUT ON SOME OF THIS BLUE CAMOUFLAGE MAKE-UP!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THIS BLOKE? HE SEEMS TO HAVE ADOPTED US! HE MUST BE MENTALLY RETARDED OR SOMETHING!
WHY ARE WE HIDING? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU GUYS WHEN YOU TALK! SHOULD I PAINT MYSELF BLUE, TOO? I NEVER HEARD OF THAT! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU GUYS MIGHT NOT EVEN BE FOOTBALL FANS LIKE YOU TOLD ME!
MAYBE WE CAN USE HIM AS A HOSTAGE IF WORSE COMES TO WORST! HE MIGHT BUY US A FEW PRECIOUS SECONDS!
THAT COULD BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE! HERE, HELP ME MOVE THE BOMB OVER THERE!
HEY! YOU GUYS ARE ACTUALLY SOCCER FANS, AREN'T YOU? ALL THIS TIME I WAS THINKING YOU GUYS WERE TALKING ABOUT FOOTBALL!
YOU FOREIGN PEOPLE DON'T KNOW DOODLEYSQUAT ABOUT REAL FOOTBALL!
SOCCER PLAYERS AREN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO HIT EACH OTHER! WHAT KIND OF SISSY GAME IS THAT?
DOGCATCHER ONE TO COMMAND CENTRAL! WE ARE APPROACHING GLASGOW RUNWAY TWO FROM SOUTH!
PREPARE TO JUMP!
WHAT KIND OF GUY WOULD PLAY A SERIOUS SPORT IN SHORT PANTS?
SET WHATCHAMACALLIT AT DELTA THIRTY-THREE...
...W-H-A-T-C-H-M-A...
...AND ALL YOU EVER DO IS KICK THE THING AROUND! THAT'S THE MOST BORING THING I EVER HEARD OF!
OKAY, NOW WHAT?
CLICK!


...SO, WHY DON'T YOU JUST PICK UP THE BALL AND RUN WITH IT ?
I SEE SOMETHING MOVING!
ONE O' THEM IS CLIMBING OVER TH' BARRICADE! AN' HE'S COMING THIS WAY!
REDBIRD THIRTY-EIGHT! SET! ONE! TWO! THREE! HUP! IT'S THE HEFTY FULLBACK FREEKOWTSKI UP THE MIDDLE!! HE STIFFARMS A WOULD-BE TACKLER! HE'S PAST THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE! TO THE TWENTY-FIVE! THIRTY! THIRTY-FIVE! FORTY! HE'S GOING ALL THE WAY!!!
HE'S BREAKING OUT! AFTER HIM !!
(HOWARD COSELL VOICE) THAT FAT BOY CAN CERTAINLY TRAVERSE THE TERRA FIRMA!
(DON MEREDITH VOICE) HE SHORE DID PUT SOME MOVES ON THOSE DUDES, DIDN HE HOWURD?
(FRANK GIFFORD VOICE) INCIDENTALLY LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THAT WAS A NEW N.F.L. RUSHING RECORD SURPASSING THE OLD SEASON HIGH OF TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTEEN POINT FIVE...

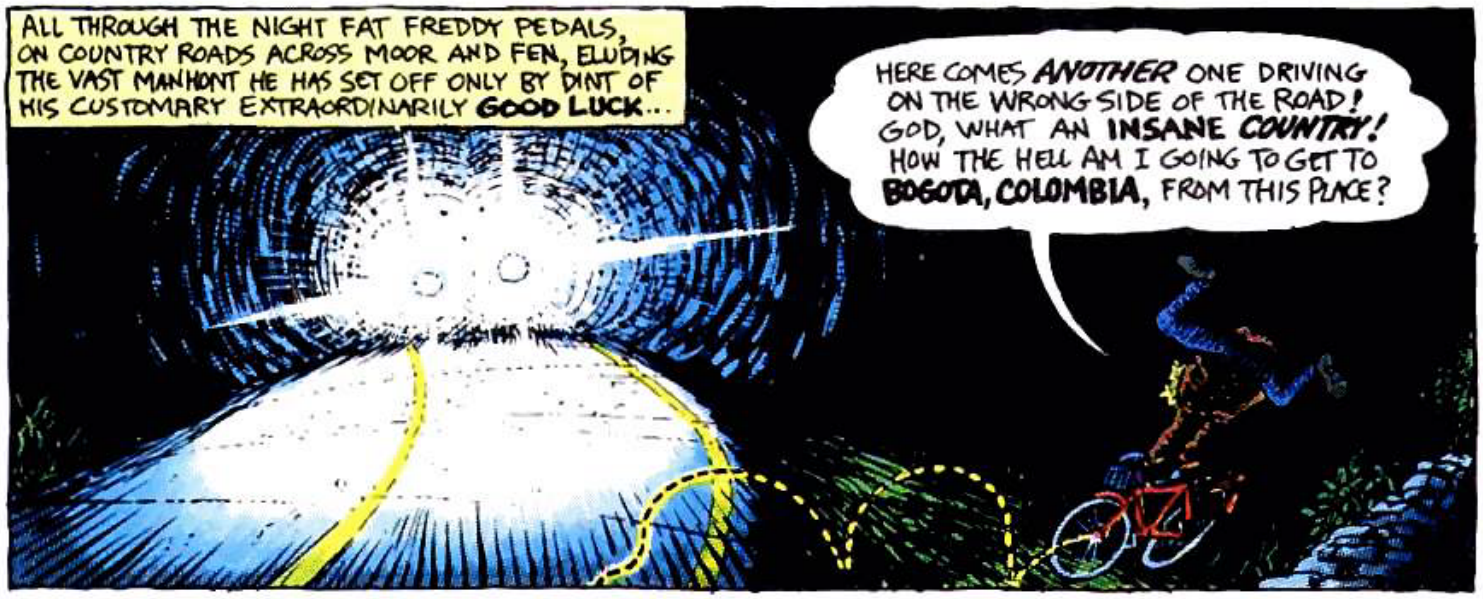

OH NO! WE'RE TOO LATE! THEY'VE GOTTEN AWAY!
WE WERE AMBUSHED BY A HORDE OF PICTISH WARRIORS, COLONEL, ALL BLUE AND TATTOOED AND 'ORRIBLE THEY WERE, RETURNED FROM THE MURKY PAST, SIR, TO WREAK PAGAN VENGEANCE UPON US ALL!

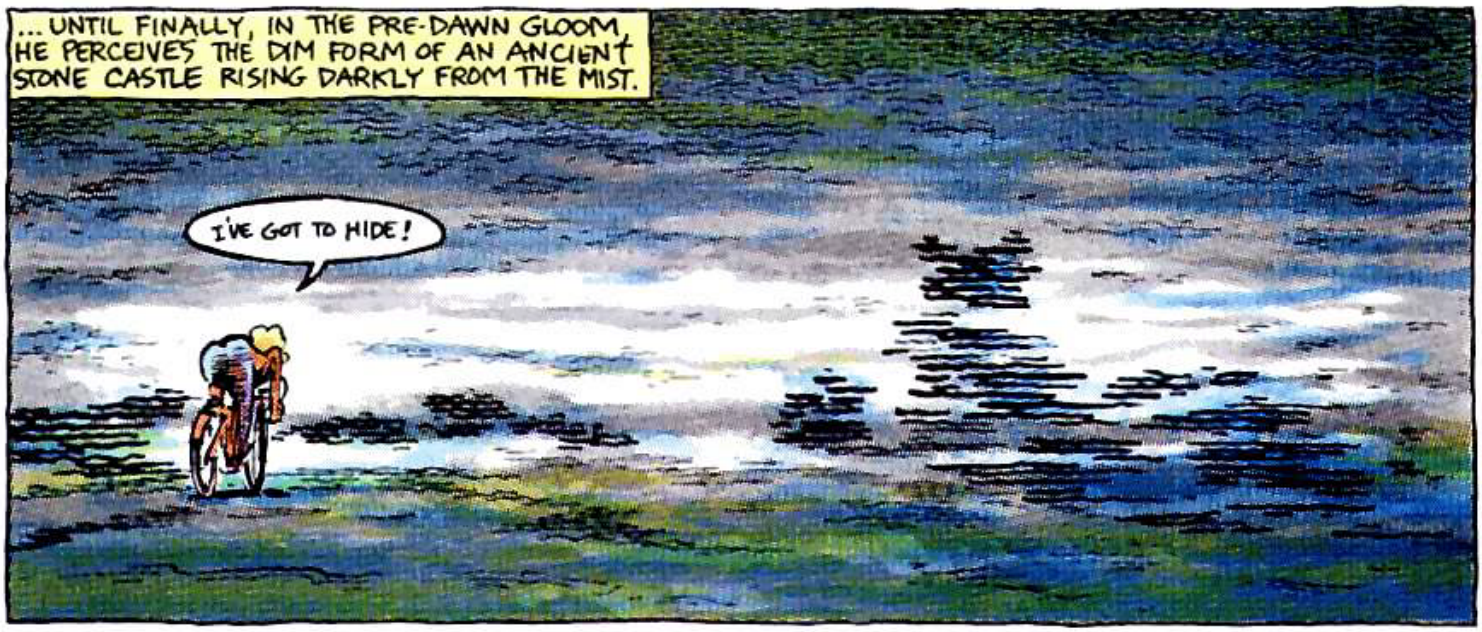
IN THE DARKNESS AND CONFUSION, AND FUELED BY THE EXITEMENT OF FOREIGN TRAVEL (AS WELL AS SEVERAL DOZEN STRAIGHT WHISKIES), FAT FREDDY QUICKLY OUTSTRIPS HIS COMPANIONS THE TERRORISTS, DESPITE BEING BURDENED BY THE HALF-KILOTON ATOMIC BOMB DISGUISED AS A KICKBALL.
JEEZ! I NEVER KNEW SOCCER BALLS WERE SO HEAVY! HOW DO THE GUYS KEEP FROM BREAKING THEIR TOES?

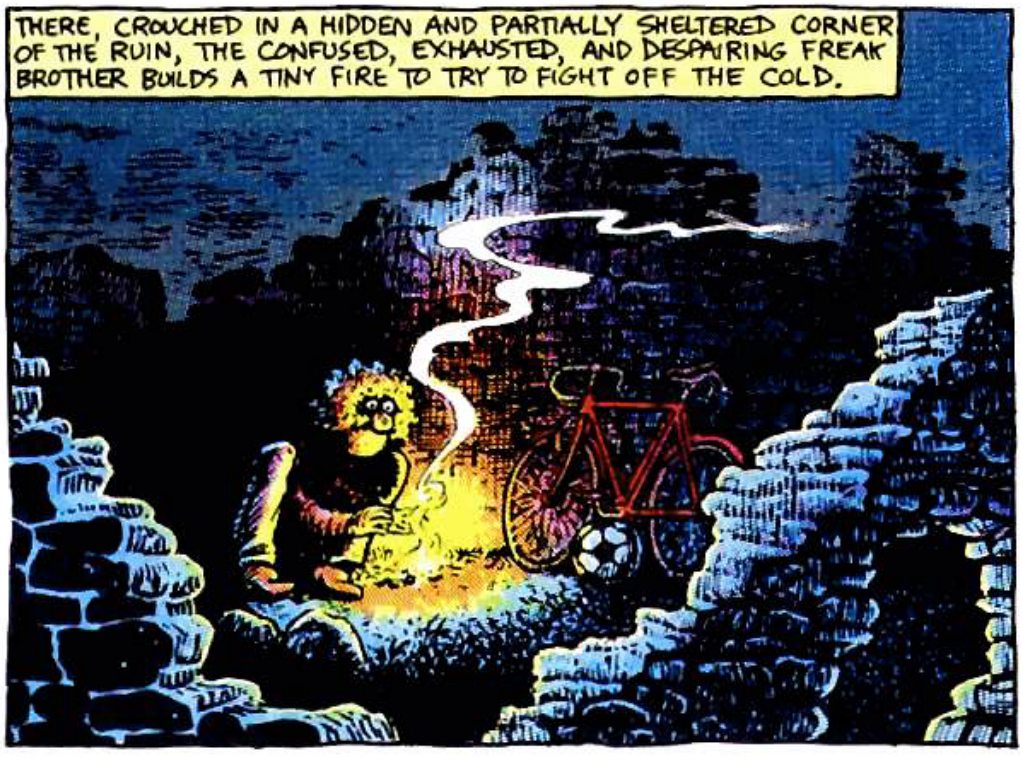

IT IS ONLY WHEN HE FINALLY STOPS AT A MACDONALD'S TO EAT, THAT HE BEGINS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS OCCURRED.
THE NOTORIOUS TERRORIST ANDRE THE HYENA AND HIS GANG BROKE OUT OF A POLICE TRAP AT GLASGOW AIRPORT EARLIER THIS EVENING WHERE THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO PASS THROUGH CUSTOMS DRESSED AS FOOTBALL FANS! AN EXTENSIVE DRAGNET HAS BEEN PUT OUT FOR THE FUGITIVE MEN, WHO WERE RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN CARRYING SOME SORT OF SMALL BUT POWERFUL BOMB, AND WHO WERE LAST SEEN CLAD IN THE COLORS OF F.C. PARTICK THISTLE, RED AND YELLOW...
!
2/2/4



NONE OF THESE BIKES ARE LOCKED UP! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THESE PEOPLE HERE, ANYHOW?

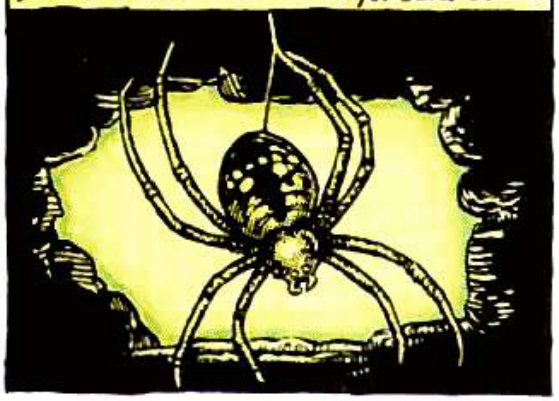

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT FAT FREDDY PEDALS, ON COUNTRY ROADS ACROSS MOOR AND FEN, ELUDING THE VAST MANHUNT HE HAS SET OFF ONLY BY DINT OF HIS CUSTOMARY EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD LUCK...
HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE DRIVING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD! GOD, WHAT AN INSANE COUNTRY! HOW THE HELL AM I GOING TO GET TO BOGOTA, COLOMBIA, FROM THIS PLACE?


...UNTIL FINALLY, IN THE PRE-DAWN GLOOM, HE PERCEIVES THE DIM FORM OF AN ANCIENT STONE CASTLE RISING DARKLY FROM THE MIST.
I'VE GOT TO HIDE!


THERE, CROUCHED IN A HIDDEN AND PARTIALLY SHELTERED CORNER OF THE RUIN, THE CONFUSED, EXHAUSTED, AND DESPAIRING FREAK BROTHER BUILDS A TINY FIRE TO TRY TO FIGHT OFF THE COLD.

NEARBY, IN A DARKENED NOOK, A PAIR OF EYES SPARKLES. THEY BELONG TO A SMALL SPIDER.

THE SPIDER HAPPENS TO BE A DESCENDANT, MANY GENERATIONS REMOVED, OF THE VERY SPIDER WHICH PROVIDED THE INSPIRATION FOR SCOTLAND'S HERO AND FOUNDER, ROBERT BRUCE.



THE BRUCE, YOU MAY RECALL, FOUND HIMSELF ONE TIME IN MUCH THE SAME SITUATION AS FAT FREDDY NOW FINDS HIMSELF: IN DESPERATE FLIGHT AND HIDING FROM HIS ENEMIES.

AS HE PONDERED CAPITULATION AND SURRENDER, HIS GAZE FELL UPON A SPIDER WHO WAS TRYING TO BUILD A WEB ACROSS A LARGE OPENING.

AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE SPIDER TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO LEAP WITH HIS FILAMENT ACROSS THE GAP. ROBERT BRUCE WATCHED, FASCINATED, FOR A LONG, LONG PERIOD OF TIME.

FINALLY, APTER MANY A TRY, THE SMALL SPIDER SUCCEEDED IN REACHING THE OPPOSITE LEDGE AND WAS ABLE TO GO ON AND COMPLETE HIS WORK. STIRRED DEEPLY BY THE EXAMPLE SET BY THE SIMPLE ARACHNID, BRUCE REGAINED HIS SPIRITS AND WENT ON TO DEFEAT THE ENGLISH AT BANNOCKBURN IN 1314.

FAT FREDDY, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS A PATHOLOGICAL ABHORRENCE OF ALL TYPES OF SPIDERS.

EEEEEEEEEE YARRRGH!!

...AND THE BOMB IN THE FOOTBALL SKIN, FORGOTTEN, BEGINS TO ROLL SLOWLY DOWN THE GRASSY SLOPE...

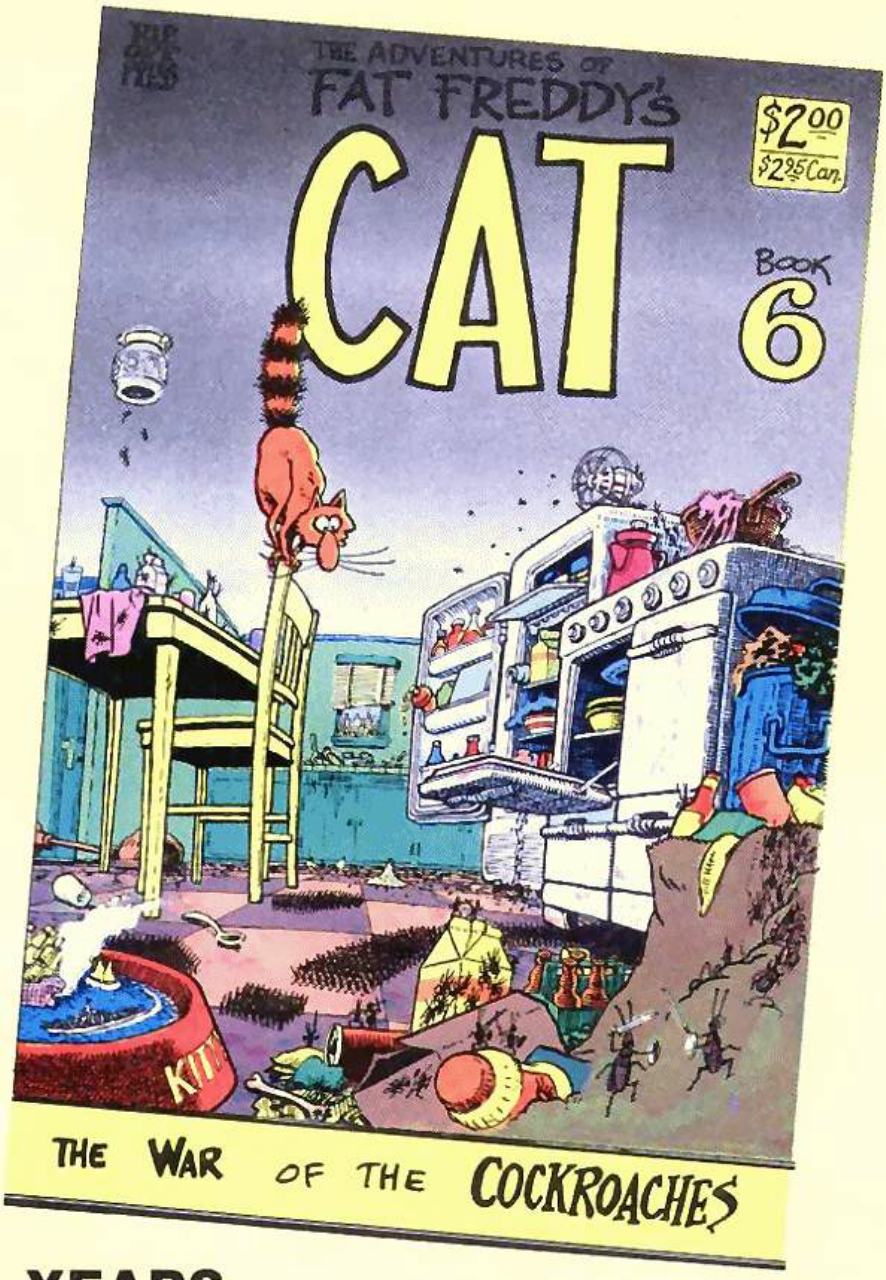
...AND DISAPPEARS NOISELESSLY INTO THE DARK, DEEP WATERS OF THE FAMOUS LOCH NESS.

to be continued...

FAT FREDDY'S CAT FANS!

Now at last you can find out what happened to our feline friend when the Freak Brothers went off to Bogota and left him locked inside their apartment. . . in

FAT FREDDY'S CAT #6



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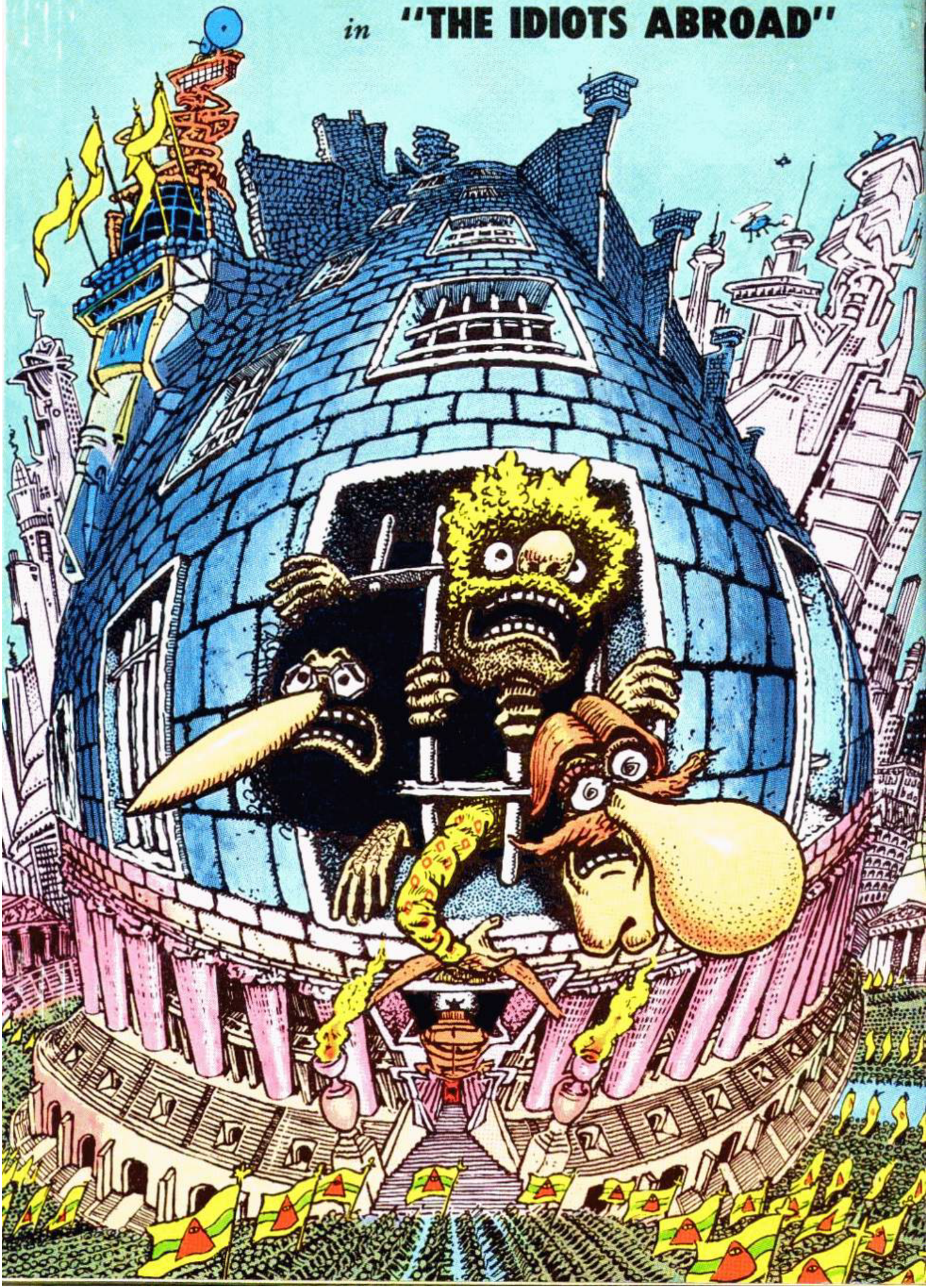
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